

- ▶ Mariela Castro en la Mesa Redonda:
'Los problemas del mundo son de todas las personas'



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ICE raids escalate in LA as community fights back

By John Parker

Tense confrontations are escalating in Los Angeles' residential neighborhoods. In just the first two weeks of May, incidents in South Central include a raid near Exposition and Arlington.

According to witnesses, ICE agents arrived in force, shutting down the entire block with at least eight vehicles, including trucks and unmarked cars. Officers in full tactical gear, wearing bulletproof vests, detained at least five individuals.

Neighbors reported hearing a detained individual shouting for a lawyer, while others described a heavy police presence nearby, including armored trucks.

Forcible removals and warrantless searches

In a separate incident, residents reported that a neighbor, sitting in her car, had her window broken by ICE agents who forcibly removed her.

This writer, a member of the Community Self-Defense Coalition, witnessed another incident in South Central Los Angeles during a community self-defense patrol. Law enforcement, including West Covina Police and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) agents, entered a family's home without a warrant. Minors were forced to provide DNA swabs without parental consent, and

property was seized before a warrant was produced, at least three hours after the raid began.

The government continues to criminalize basic constitutional rights, break laws requiring warrants, terrorize families, and rely on intimidation.

The raid is part of a broader escalation in immigration enforcement, with federal agencies increasingly collaborating with local police — a violation of California's sanctuary city laws. Members of the Community Self-Defense Coalition, a grassroots network that monitors and challenges illegal ICE operations, wit-

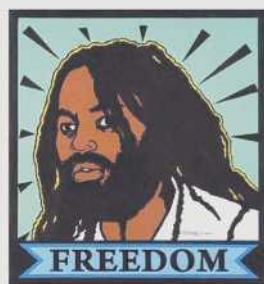
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Students demand justice for Freddie Gray and Palestine

Israeli army issued forced displacement orders to Palestinians in Gaza amidst heavy airstrikes.



Tariffs in a declining empire
Burkina Faso vs. imperialism
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Yemen stands firm



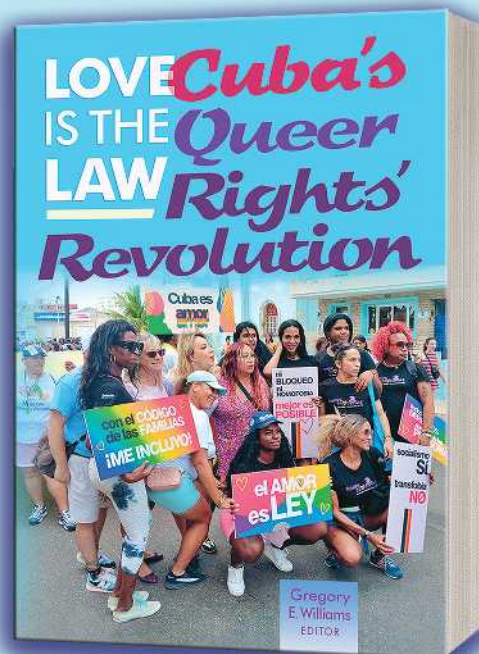
Graphic: Emory

Free Mumia, ally of
LGBTQ+ movement

40 years later –
the MOVE bombing

NJ rail workers strike

Trans rights &
class solidarity



NEW BOOK

Mumia Abu-Jamal embraces the

By Lallan Schoenstein

Mumia Abu-Jamal is a brilliant and empathetic revolutionary journalist known as “the Voice of the Voiceless,” hailed as a leader of people working for peace and justice. He is a father, a grandfather, and a longtime ally of the lesbian, gay, bi, trans, queer plus (LGBTQ+) movement. He has been incarcerated for 43 years, since Dec. 9, 1981. Few political prisoners have been held behind bars for this staggering length of time.

At the time of his arrest, Mumia, a reporter for the Black Panther Party, was president of the Philadelphia chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists. By the age of 15, because of his news reports, the FBI had begun tracking the young writer through its draconian and illegal program known as COINTELPRO – not for violent behavior, but because of his “inclination to appear and speak at public gatherings.”

Reporting on police brutality and the MOVE siege

It is widely viewed that the racist Philadelphia Police Department targeted Mumia because of his courageous reporting on police brutality. Specifically, he was writing about the police attacks on the MOVE organization, which culminated in a year-long siege of the MOVE house. In 1978, nine members of MOVE were falsely charged with the murder of a police officer. In his coverage of the trial, Abu-Jamal pointed out that the officer was most likely killed in the barrage of police crossfire.

Decades of solitary confinement

Mumia, a U.S. political prisoner, served 29 years in solitary confinement on death row. Following a powerful

international campaign demanding “Freedom for MUMIA,” his death sentence was ruled unconstitutional. Now he has a life-without-parole sentence. Mumia Abu-Jamal has said: “My only crime that night is that I survived.”

Countless due process violations began just moments after Abu-Jamal was found critically wounded, shot through the chest near the prone body of Officer Daniel Faulkner. From that moment on, members of the Philadelphia Police Department began to manufacture Abu-Jamal’s guilt, conceal his innocence, and charge him with murder.

From early on, it was established that Abu-Jamal’s trial was patently unjust. Philadelphia prosecutors excluded Black people from juries. In Abu-Jamal’s case, 11 out of the 15 peremptory strikes were made to bar Black people from his jury.

His conviction came in a trial that Amnesty International and numerous human rights groups said showed extensive evidence of prosecutorial, judicial, and police misconduct, and “effectively strip[ped] Mumia Abu-Jamal of any meaningful legal representation,” all seriously violating international legal standards.

A few years ago, it was officially disclosed that cartons full of evidence had been discovered, hidden in a Philadelphia City Hall closet 36 years earlier. Mumia’s legal defense team said this evidence would establish his innocence. Despite that, in 2023, Philadelphia Common Pleas Judge Lucretia Clemons ruled that it was too late for the evidence to be heard.

Support of the LGBTQ+ movement

In recent years, Mumia has become increasingly outspoken about queer and trans issues. In 2000, he wrote a com-

mentary denouncing the brutal murders of three white gay men: Matthew Shepard in Wyoming in 1998, Billy Jack Gaither in Alabama, and Eddie Northington in Virginia, both in 1999. He was responding to an LGBTQ+ campaign in support of his freedom, called Rainbow Flags for Mumia, that Leslie Feinberg initiated.

“The sickening attacks on gay people in cities across the nation recently are a reflection of the sickness that simmers at the core of the American soul. It is here that a truly perverse hatred is bred, and from here that all attacks are launched against all who are seen as Other.

“This violence, which seems psychosexual in nature, is an attack on the self that seeks to destroy a part of the self that threatens the self. From Matthew Shepard, to Alabama, to that bloody American ground that was once the seat of the Confederacy, Richmond, violence, spawned by the dark pit of hatred and fear, is unleashed by men who claim a false and twisted ‘purity.’

“More often than not, those who find themselves attacking gay folks violently are replaying a violence that they grew up with, or that they continue to act out of, against their family or children.

“Is it a coincidence that Richmond, the city where a Black man was burned to death and decapitated, is followed several months later with the decapitation and torture of a gay man? I think not.

“This cruel and savage violence must be stopped — but it won’t be the cops that stop it, for they are the agents of legalized state violence. The brutality that occurs in their own homes daily, the recent spate of cops who kill their wives and kids, more than proves it. The people are the solution! So, my thanks to the Rainbow! Ona Move! To Freedom!”

In the 2012 book *The Classroom and*

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CONTACT STRUGGLE-LA LUCHA

ATLANTA

Atlanta@struggle-la-lucha.org

BALTIMORE

Baltimore@struggle-la-lucha.org

BOONVILLE, INDIANA

Boonville@struggle-la-lucha.org

BOSTON

Boston@struggle-la-lucha.org

DENVER

Denver@struggle-la-lucha.org

DETROIT

Detroit@struggle-la-lucha.org

LOS ANGELES

LA@struggle-la-lucha.org

NEW ORLEANS

NOLA@struggle-la-lucha.org

NEW YORK CITY

NYC@struggle-la-lucha.org

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Orlando@struggle-la-lucha.org

SAN DIEGO

SanDiego@struggle-la-lucha.org

WASHINGTON, D.C.

DC@struggle-la-lucha.org

LGBTQ+ movement

the Cell: Conversations on Black Life in America, Mumia said in a transcript that “Huey P. Newton spoke out, back in 1970, about gay liberation. He didn’t just mention it. He said, ‘We, the Black Panther Party, support gay liberation just as we support women’s liberation.’ He saw it as part of the struggle for human liberation. ... It was the most forward position of any radical and revolutionary movement of the period, and reflected Huey’s keen thinking on issues before his time.

“Newton’s 1970 statement, made by a Black Panther Party (BPP) leader, came just a year after the Stonewall rebellion, giving ground-breaking support to the then-strong and growing movements for women’s and gay liberation. Newton called for building an alliance with both movements.”

Radio documentary: A revolutionary evolution

Mumia Abu-Jamal explained his decades-long evolution to open solidarity with queer and trans liberation in a radio documentary, “Mumia Abu-Jamal Embraces LGBTQ Liberation” produced by Bob Lederer, host of the program Out-FM on WBAI in New York. Out-FM is a weekly anti-racist program by and for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, two-spirit, gender non-conforming, intersex, queer, and questioning communities.

In his interview with Mumia, Lederer included an account of the prisoner’s evolution on queer issues by Noelle Hanrahan, a lesbian journalist who has recorded more than 3,000 of Abu-Jamal’s radio essays on prisonradio.org, which airs the voices of incarcerated people.

In the interview Mumia said: “When you think about what Huey said at the Revolutionary People’s Constitutional Convention about gay folks and lesbian and queer folks, I must be honest with you, it was not well received by members of the Party. We were shocked in some ways, confused in other ways. But as usual, this was Huey at his finest. And he was a true revolutionary intellectual, who was usually ahead of his peers. ...

“And I thought about it in the same context as Dhoruba bin Wahad, who was one of the Panther 21, and he talked about gay liberation. So some of the most advanced sectors of the Black liberation movement began to think about it far more broadly and deeply than even when Huey made his call.”

In Mumia’s 2004 book, *We Want Freedom: A Life in the Black Panther Party*, he wrote about the Panthers’ 1970 Revolutionary People’s Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, which around 6,000 activists attended. He called it “a way of developing a revolutionary superstructure that would be the groundwork for a new society” and noted the wide array of groups – of students, socialists, Native peoples, women, and gay and lesbian groups – were invited to contribute. Workshops were held separately by gay men and lesbians, the former more multi-racial than the latter, and the gay men – but not the lesbians – were allowed to present to the larger convention.”

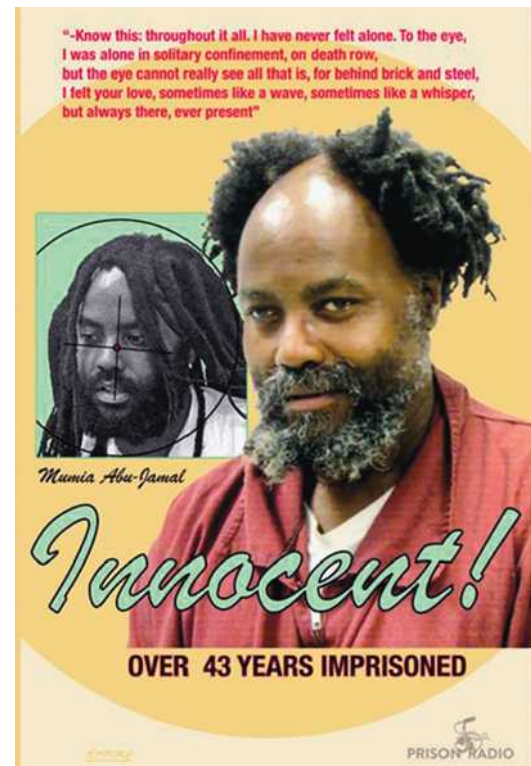
Mumia wrote: “The many diverse workshops provided the basis for one of the most progressive Constitutions in the history of humankind,” citing calls for Black and Third World representation in governing institutions, national self-determination, sexual self-determination for women and homosexuals,” and the universal rights to housing, health care and day care. ... Much of the movement was. ... deeply macho in orientation and treated women in many of these groups in a distinctly secondary and disrespectful fashion.”

But he also noted that “women were far more than mere appendages of male ego and power, they were valued and respected comrades. The women really were the glory of the Party. And I mean, they were the Party’s hardest workers, the most disciplined members and leaders.”

Mumia cited the emergence in the 2010s of the queer-led Black Lives Matter movement as a major spur for straight Black liberation leaders to embrace LGBTQ+ liberation:

Mumia also spoke movingly of the lessons he has learned from gay and trans prisoners in the institutions where he has been incarcerated: He gave an eyewitness account of the horrendous oppression of incarcerated gay men and trans women.

“Well, you know, being in many ways, a blockhead and a nerd, I used to think that for a gay or even a trans man in prison would be a touch of heaven. It’s quite the reverse. They catch hell from prisoners and staff alike. So think about the alienation in isolation that breathes in such a person. I’ve seen people – literally seen them – try to commit suicide by jumping off of a rail onto the floor. If



Poster by Emory Douglas for PrisonRadio.com
available at: tinyurl.com/Emory-Mumia-stickersposters

you hit your head or your neck, you can kill yourself, and I’ve seen that several times, in several places, in several prisons. Prison, by its nature, breeds isolation in human beings and atomizes them to the extent that it further isolates and separates them. And for trans and gay men in prison, it’s a hell in a hell, you know? They get the worst of it.”

Confronting anti-trans violence

In 2019, Mumia released a commentary denouncing a wave of murders of Black trans women:

“In recent weeks, we have seen naked violence unleashed against trans women, directed against them by the state in the form of police beating and by rightist forces in this emerging fascist movement in America.

“What does this mean? Why now? I believe it comes now for a specific strategic purpose, for trans women stand on the periphery of the gay rights movement, not its nucleus. This means they are isolated and, as such, targeted by rightist forces to isolate them further.

“We must not forget that they are, after all, Black folks in the land and at an era where and when Black life remains cheap. Now add Black, gay, and transgender. See where the analysis goes? And if it’s Black trans women today, it’ll be Black straight women tomorrow and

Continued on page 11

Commemorating the 1985 MOVE bombing in Philadelphia

By Stephen Millies

Philadelphia, May 13 — Two hundred people gathered here at Cobbs Creek Parkway and Osage Avenue this rainy late afternoon to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the bombing of the nearby house of the MOVE organization.

On May 13, 1985, police fired “over 10,000 rounds of ammunition in under 90 minutes at a row house containing children,” according to the Philadelphia Special Investigative Commission. High-pressure fire hoses and tear gas were also used.

Police then dropped a bomb made from C4 plastic explosives on the house at 6221 Osage Avenue at 5:27 pm, creating an inferno. Both the Pentagon and FBI helped make the bomb.

This was the first time since the 1921 massacre of Black people in Tulsa, Oklahoma — and the destruction of the city’s “Black Wall Street” — that U.S. police bombed their own city. Philadelphia Police Commissioner Gregore J. Sambor gave the order to “let the fire burn.”

MOVE family members who tried to escape were fired upon. Five children and six adults were killed, both from the fire and police bullets.

The children killed were Tomaso Africa, age 9; Phil Africa, age 11; Delisha Africa, age 12; Netta Africa, age 12; and Tree Africa, age 14. The adults who died were Conrad Africa, Raymond Africa, Frank Africa, Rhonda Africa, Theresa

Africa, and John Africa, the MOVE organization’s founder.

The resulting fire destroyed 61 homes and left over 250 people in the West Philadelphia Black neighborhood of Cobbs Creek homeless. The only two survivors were Ramona Africa and 13-year-old Birdie Africa. Both suffered severe burns.

None of the criminals who committed these crimes against humanity were ever prosecuted. The only person convicted was the injured survivor, Ramona Africa, who spent seven years in prison.

Somber and strong remembrance

Speakers at the rally remembered John Africa and all the MOVE members while a musical ensemble accompanied their talks. Among those speaking were Mama Pam and Mike Africa, Jr., who lost an uncle and cousin in the bombing. Mike Africa, Jr. described efforts to reclaim the MOVE house.

The crimes committed against MOVE family members didn’t end with their deaths in 1985. Remains of two children — Delisha Africa and Tree Africa — were not given to their families but were instead kept by the Ivy League University of Pennsylvania. These Black children were not allowed any dignity even in death.

The May 13, 1985, bombing wasn’t the first attack on MOVE or its supporters. On August 8, 1978, the notoriously racist Mayor Frank Rizzo ordered police to raid the MOVE house in Philadelphia’s Powelton Village neighborhood.

Cops fired so recklessly that they killed one of their own, James Ramp. Nine MOVE members were framed for Ramp’s death.

They were Chuck Africa, Debbie Africa, Delbert Africa, Eddie Africa, Janet Africa, Janine Africa, Merle Africa, Michael Africa, and Phil Africa.



The historical marker erected near the site of the police attack. Left, Mama Pam.



Both Merle Africa and Phil Africa died in prison. The remaining MOVE members were finally freed after spending four decades in prison. That’s over 10 years longer than the old apartheid regime in South Africa had Nelson Mandela jailed.

Trump is now welcoming racists from South Africa while thousands of immigrants are being kidnapped by ICE. Trump continues to supply the bombs that have killed thousands of children in Gaza.

Mumia Abu-Jamal, a MOVE supporter, was framed for the 1981 death of Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner. As a 15-year-old, Mumia helped found Philadelphia’s Black Panther Party chapter under FBI surveillance. Later, as a reporter, he was threatened by Mayor Rizzo at a news conference.

Mumia was sentenced to death, but the power of the people stopped the execution and got him off death row. A worldwide movement is demanding freedom for Mumia Abu-Jamal and all political prisoners.

Decades later, the people of Philadelphia are horrified by the MOVE bombing. On May 9, Philadelphia’s City Council declared May 13, 2025, the 40th anniversary, to be a day of reflection and remembrance.

Five years before, the City Council for the first time apologized for the MOVE bombing. In 2020, during the Black Lives Matter movement that swept the United States, racist Frank Rizzo’s statue across from City Hall was finally taken down.

Always remember the MOVE holocaust. Stop the war against Black people. #



Honoring Mumia Abu-Jamal on his 71st birthday

By Gloria Verdieu

“Know this: throughout it all. I have never felt alone. To the eye, I was alone in solitary confinement, on death row, but the eye cannot really see all that is, for behind brick and steel, I felt your love, sometimes like a wave, sometimes like a whisper, but always there, ever present.” – Mumia Abu-Jamal, Prison Radio

On April 24, 2025, the International Mobilization for Mumia organized events in various cities worldwide to honor Long Distance Revolutionary Mumia Abu-Jamal on his 71st birthday.

Mobilizing for Mumia held an online seminar entitled “Laws, Mumia, Universities, and Palestine.”

Mumia joined the panel of student activists and community organizers on the online seminar over the phone from prison. He spoke about the “waves of repression” in the world today. He referenced the brave and courageous students who stood against the slaughter in Palestine. Authorities arrested thousands of students and activists for political protests. Mumia experienced a temporary interruption due to technical difficulties while discussing laws that adhere to the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

When he returned, he spoke with a strong, enthusiastic voice: “The only thing that can meet that kind of force is a counter force. ... ‘waves of resistance.’... Any people who can ignore the Constitution for over one hundred years when it comes to Africans are capable of anything. ... Where there is repression, there must be resistance.” (Listen to the online seminar on YouTube, Twisted Laws: Mumia, Universities & Palestine.)

Mumia was referring to the thousands of students at more than 130 colleges and universities across the U.S. rallying in opposition to the war in Gaza with protests and encampments. More than 2,000 students were held in custody.

Who is Mumia Abu-Jamal?

Internationally known U.S. political prisoner Abu-Jamal is an award-winning journalist and author of 12 books



SLL photo: Gloria Verdieu

Mobilizing to release Mumia Abu-Jamal, Malcolm X Library, San Diego, 2023.

and thousands of written essays, as well as audio commentaries from prison. His writings are detailed, factual examinations of racism and political bias in the U.S. judicial system.

His pursuit of justice and resolve has remained steadfast, even after decades of incarceration. He is one of our most courageous revolutionary intellectuals, who says what is on his mind without fear of consequences. The book “Live from Death Row,” authored by him, has been translated into seven languages.

It is clear to the movement that he remains in prison for telling the truth about capitalism, imperialism, the prison-industrial complex, and the entire U.S. criminal justice system.

Mumia Abu-Jamal, sentenced to death in 1982, was on Pennsylvania’s death row for 30 years. The state signed his death warrant twice. He came dangerously close to execution on Aug. 17, 1995, and again on Dec. 2, 1999. It was the mobilization of a mass international movement that saved his life.

In 2011, his sentence was commuted to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

Mumia long had a target on his back. At 15 years old, he became a member of the Black Panther Party. The FBI started a file on the revolutionary teenager. Super racist Mayor Frank Rizzo threatened him at a news conference.

The U.S. government claims there are no political prisoners in the United States. When, in fact, political prisoners make up the majority of the over 2 million people locked up in prisons, jails and ICE detention centers throughout

the U.S., because prisons are concentration camps for the poor.

Noel Hanrahan, a lawyer who works on Mumia’s medical cases and visits three to four times a month, gave an update on April 25, 2025:

“Mumia has exhausted his direct appeals before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. ... We all need to understand that he has been in prison now four decades and has never received a fair trial. It’s up to us, those around the world, those in the United States, those in Philadelphia, to create the context, to create the power, to build the grass roots momentum that will force our courts to address his long standing issues, including evidence of innocence, including evidence of police and prosecutorial misconduct. It is those actions that we take that will build the context.”

Noel Hanrahan’s full statement is transcribed on Prison Radio (Noelle Hanrahan, Esq. Statement for Mexico City Event – Prison Radio).

Mumia is a victim of racist police, judicial, and prosecutorial misconduct. The International & National Mobilization for Mumia and All Political Prisoners is demanding Justice.

Release Mumia! Free all political prisoners! Send revolutionary greetings to Mumia

Smart Communications / PA DOC
Abu-Jamal, Mumia #AM 8335 SCI-Mahano, P.O. Box 33028 St. Petersburg, FL 33733 United States

Mumia is jailed in Pennsylvania, and his mail is digitized in Florida. The prison prints the scanned image and delivers it to Mumia. #

ICE raids escalate in LA as community fights back

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nessed and documented unlawful tactics.

The Community Self-Defense Coalition has gained international attention for its efforts in organizing neighborhood patrols, providing know-your-rights education, and mobilizing rapid response teams during ICE raids. During these patrols, coalition members distribute literature and encourage residents to document the raid with cell phones, creating a visible counter-presence to law enforcement.

State repression and growing resistance

To discourage the fightback against the government's fascist repression, the state is redefining constitutional rights in a way that denies the well-established principles of free speech and assembly. The FBI is now being redirected against immigrant communities, while white-collar crimes and criminals (think Elon Musk) are deprioritized.

Despite increasing repression, the coalition reports that its numbers have grown since May 1 (International Workers' Day), with more militant patrols forming in heavily targeted neighborhoods and on college campuses.

The Community Self-Defense Coalition will continue to do its work to push back fascist attacks of the Trump administration, which is a continuation of the previous administration's genocidal police attacks and ICE deportations tar-



getting primarily Black and Brown communities, and increasingly now, anyone in solidarity with the people of Palestine.

Palestine solidarity and campus protest

On May 15, the 77th anniversary of the Nakba — the mass slaughter of 15,000 Palestinians as over 400 Palestinian villages were depopulated or razed, removing more than half the Palestin-

ian population from their homeland in 1948 — UCLA students and coalition member Maggie Vascassenno participated in a demonstration organized by Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP). The action occurred despite the university's criminalization of pro-Palestine activities, which led to students and professors being subject to deportations and detentions.

Vascassenno described the action:

"Today, at UCLA, Students for Justice in Palestine organized a powerful event to illustrate the loss that was Nakba. First they set up at Dickson N, then when the cops started creeping in, the organizers quickly moved the crowd to a new location, where they built a community with boxes and painted banners, and they planted an orange tree. It was Jaffa, and it was beautiful, until the cops started surrounding us, then we rushed down the long steps, carrying what we could and went to the final site, named Gaza, where again we were rapidly dispersed. Throughout the event, students recited the words and remembrances of Palestinian survivors of the original Nakba."


That fighting spirit will continue to grow from Los Angeles to Palestine. #

Community Victory!

This week, representatives from LAUSD met with Henry to discuss the next steps to reverse his dismissal and reinstate his position.

Trans teachers belong in LAUSD!

WHEN WE FIGHT, WE WIN!!





educatenotindoctrinate and 2 others

educatenotindoctrinate and 2 others

educatenotindoctrinate WE DID IT!!! This win represents so many people coming together to send one message: Trans teachers belong in LAUSD. 🙌

We are very grateful to our educational leaders on the board and under @lausdusup -- who heard us and helped address Henry's situation.

And we know that Henry's case is only one example of a common situation across our district, state, and nation. Discrimination, harassment, and abuse from principals is a persistent issue for educators in our schools, especially for trans educators, and especially right now. 🙌

We are committed to fighting for a stronger contract, increased enforcement and accountability, and a better LAUSD.

We are the union, we when we fight, we win! 🙌

59m

👍👍👍 Liked by tsukuru_nonbinary and 96 others

59 minutes ago

Add a comment...

Free Jay Burton

Fighting for justice against LA's neo-Nazi Sheriff's gangs

By Scott Scheffer

On August 29, 1970, some 25,000 people gathered for the Chicano Moratorium in East Los Angeles to protest the brutal U.S. imperialist war against the Vietnamese people. Early in the historic protest, L.A. County Sheriff's Deputies attacked, beating people and firing tear-gas grenades.

By the time the assault was over, they had murdered four people. Reuben Salazar, a progressive Chicano journalist, was killed after going into the nearby Silver Dollar Café to gather himself. Los Angeles County deputies fired a tear gas canister into the cafe, striking him directly in the head.

In the aftermath, the Coroner's Inquest revealed that an organized, violent gang within the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department were the shock troops in the assault and were responsible for the four deaths. No Sheriffs, Deputy Sheriffs or commanders took responsibility or were punished.

The gang was called the Little Devils. The revelation of their existence was the first exposé of a decades-long series of murders, beatings, raids on people's homes at gunpoint, frameups of innocent people, organized violence and murders of inmates carried out by the fascist, racist County Sheriff's gangs in the department, which continue to this day. A recent study found that there are currently at least 24 named gangs in the LA County Sheriff's Department (LASD).

After the Little Devils faded, and even more notorious, an avowed white supremacist gang came to be known called the Lynnwood Vikings.

At a Black History Month forum at the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice, Aye Jay, a Los Angeles-based attorney and community organizer, spoke about the case of Jay Burton, one of the victims of the Lynnwood Vikings. He said, "Jay Burton is a political prisoner of today who was ensnared by the neo-Nazi LASD gang known as the Lynnwood Vikings when he was just 16 years old. People need to grapple with what that means for today's society and the function of 'law enforcement.' Think about knowing someone in your own backyard being wrongfully convicted and imprisoned for 36-plus years for a crime they



In a 1970 protest, L.A. County Sheriff's Deputies, beat people and fired tear-gas grenades.

didn't commit. Doing nothing would be insanely callous, right? That's why we are organizing around the call to FREE JAY BURTON!"

Police agencies in the U.S. are in place to guard the wealth of the capitalists and protect their monopolist profits from the demands of the working class, particularly to keep communities of color in their place.

The LASD is comprised of 18,000 well-armed cops; it's slightly larger than the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). Between the LASD and the LAPD, their helicopter fleet is second only to the U.S. Air Force. It's the largest Sheriff's department in the U.S., and L.A. has the largest county jail system with a daily count of 12,987 inmates as of the second quarter of 2022.

Parallel to the already violent and racist role of the police, there is a collection of violent Sheriff's Deputies organized in up to two dozen gangs who operate as a shadow government within LASD. They hunt for Black and Brown victims on the street, openly flash their gang signs, and wear gang tattoos on their legs. Deputies are honored in barroom celebrations after beating or shooting a victim, and their tattoos are enhanced to indicate their new status within the gang. They exclude and threaten Sheriff's Deputies who are African-American or women. But their real targets are youth of color.

An extensive report by Cerise Castle published by KNOCK LA quotes David Lynn, a private investigator, "If you are Black or Brown and walking down your street, it's fair game." Lynn uncovered through his work that regular activities for the fascist gangs include murder, armed assaults, raids on private homes and torture. County jail inmates are among the most vulnerable targets.



Over the years, investigations by the ACLU, a Civilian Oversight Commission, the aforementioned Coroners' Inquest, an FBI "investigation," and even numerous well-meaning progressive journalists' exposés haven't yielded an eradication of this fascist phenomenon. What is often described in the press as a problem that "plagues" the Sheriff's department is actually just the foremost example of the racist violence that is baked into the carceral system under capitalism.

Officially, the prison guards in LA's sprawling county jail system are also part of the LASD. The gang called the 3000 Boys dominates the force of guards at the downtown Men's Central Jail. The 3000 Boys earn tattoos when beating an inmate results in a hospitalization. The Wayside Whities run the Peter J Pritchess Detention Center. One former inmate sued the department after he was beaten by them for fighting with a white inmate. They yelled racial slurs as they beat his legs repeatedly with batons until he heard a bone snap and blood gushed from the wound. His suit is only one of many over Sheriff's gang violence that have been settled by the County. They add up to well over \$100 million over the last thirty years.

The two openly white supremacist groups, the Lynnwood Vikings' and the Compton Executioners, both get their tattoos supplemented with "998," to indicate that they've shot someone.

The way to root out fascist police gangs, in L.A., Chicago, New York City and across the country, is to abolish the police and the capitalist system they exist to protect. #

Fascism is capitalism in crisis:

Socialist author urges revolutionary

On May 3, the Struggle for Socialism Party Los Angeles branch discussed the new book, “Against fascism: reclaiming populism’s legacy for today’s class struggle,” compiled by Louisiana socialist Gregory Williams. The following is excerpted from the opening presentation for the class series.

John Parker: This is a time when the attacks of fascism are so clear, so blatant. We work with a group called the Community Self-Defense Coalition, doing daily patrols. Over 60 organizations are part of it. If you see ICE, there’s a number you can call to bring the patrol out.

This work helps empower the community to fight back and chase out these ICE forces when they try to kidnap folks. You know, let folks know you’ve got to have a signed warrant before you can go in.

I was on patrol yesterday, and I guess I’m making the point about why that’s so important for this class. Often people think about the issues, and what can be done about them, and they just think, “It’s a damn shame they’re doing this to these people.” But when you see it happening to you and your neighbors, and your children — all the time so blatantly — you don’t have a choice. You’ve got to get involved.

But to understand how to get involved, you’ve got to know what the situation is. What is it that’s causing this? What’s fundamentally creating this problem?

How can we get ahead of it? If we understand what’s going on, we can try to get ahead of it. Gregory Williams analyzed a lot of the stuff in the class struggle, from a Marxist point of view, on what’s going on now with Trump. This book is going to give us a heads up and the tools to be able to fight back. We’re so glad to have the author here today.

Gregory Williams: I’ll start with an overview of the book.

From the back cover summary:

“Fascist movements are on the rise worldwide, attacking working-class and oppressed people. The authors of this collection argue that capitalism’s inherent dynamics are the cause, as with fascism in the 20th century. Fascism is the capitalist class’s response to a system in crisis.

“They use racism and misogyny,

transphobia and homophobia to try to beat back the diverse working class while amassing more wealth for themselves. But the workers beat back fascism before, and we can do it again.

“Workers have the power to eliminate the root cause of fascism by transforming society with socialist revolution, and this book is about getting us there. All the pieces in the book come from fighters in the revolutionary struggle, and most have already been published in Struggle - La Lucha.

“Topics include populism, a progressive farmer’s movement of the 1890s; the contemporary trans struggle; the Silicon Valley MAGA connection; the legacy of the Jena Six; the abortion rights movement in the South; the real motives of right-wing governors; and the fight against KKK leader David Duke.”

Analyzing our moment

I want to talk about one of the book’s themes, and that’s the question of how we analyze a given political period in terms of the stage of the class struggle, the balance of forces, whether the period overall is more progressive or reactionary, because that affects how we organize.

I’ll focus on the David Duke section just for some examples because it offers some keys for how to read the book, and for strategizing in our political moment.

The section consists of three pieces written by Marxist leader Sam Marcy on Duke’s 1991 gubernatorial campaign in Louisiana.

I’ll paraphrase my introduction in that section. In his “Perspectives on the Duke Campaign,” Marcy explains what was truly new about Duke’s campaign. He argued that even if the racism was the same old, same old espoused by segregationist politicians George Wallace and Lester Maddox in the Civil Rights era, Duke was more dangerous because the 1960s and ‘70s were a very different period politically from the early 1990s.

Marcy says:

“In the 1960s, when both Maddox and Wallace were trying to become national figures, their type of all-out, segregationist racism was basically defensive: They were trying to hold

onto white supremacy as it had existed for a century; they were trying to retain the status quo of racism. At that time, there was an upward, progressive movement throughout the whole country. ...

“In contrast to the present, it was a progressive era. ...

“The Duke movement is not just a defensive attempt to halt the progress of Civil Rights. It is a wholesale offensive to undo and reverse the historic gains made by the Black and other progressive forces.

“The Duke campaign comes in the midst of an anti-labor offensive. Gains made by the workers have been crumbling; the capitalist recession and the attacks on the living standards of the workers have brought frustration and anger. The labor movement has been forced into concession after concession.

“Strike breaking and scab herding are on the order of the day.

“The situation is ripe for a fascist demagogue to prey upon these frustrations, especially among the middle class who are losing their moorings to the bourgeoisie.”

In 2025, most of the progressive gains of the past centuries have already been reversed. We’re in a deeply reactionary period, with economic conditions rapidly deteriorating and staggering inequality being the order of the day. The situation now is truly ripe for fascist demagogues, as Marcy said of 1991.

So, that’s the Duke section. What strikes me is how precise Marcy is in his analysis of his present moment. That was also a major feature in Vladimir Lenin’s thinking, as the leader of the Bolshevik socialist revolution, closely analyzing the historical moment, looking at many aspects of it — political, economic, cultural, etc. According to Lenin’s thinking, this kind of analysis — when developed collectively by a revolutionary party that’s based in the masses — that is what can allow the working class and the oppressed people to effectively organize, to overthrow the ruling class. And this has been tested in many revolutions beyond the USSR, especially in the Global South.

In 1991, Sam Marcy understood that the political situation had changed dras-

readiness at LA book talk

tically since the high tide of struggle in the '60s and '70s. After the economic crisis of the '70s, the global capitalist system was restructured in many ways. Nixon nixed the international gold standard. In the U.S., there was more automation. Factories and industrial jobs were sent overseas, always in search of cheaper labor.

Unions were increasingly under attack when they had actually been making gains up until the mid-70s. Privatization was on the rise. Real wages declined while the cost of living rose. The working class was squeezed. The social safety net was cut. Everywhere, the capitalist class was on the offensive.

As the capital of capitalism, the U.S. is exemplary, but these things were happening in all the imperialist countries to greater and lesser degrees. But in the U.S., particularly, the military budget grew year after year, taking on an outsized role in the economy, sucking up resources from meeting human needs. And unlike during World War II, the oversized role of war spending tended to depress the economy, not to stimulate it.

(This is almost never discussed in the bourgeois media, but military spending is inflationary. It's never discussed that the billions they've been giving to Israel and Ukraine and so on have been a major factor in the inflation of the past few years.)

So, all that was just a description of what was happening in the imperialist countries themselves, especially in the U.S. But at the same time, around 1991, in much of the socialist camp, namely the USSR and Eastern Europe, imperialist-backed counterrevolutions were underway.

So, when Marcy analyzed Duke's campaign in 1991, he wasn't just thinking about what was happening in the state of Louisiana, even though there was a major crisis happening there. He was thinking about this whole context.

This was a reactionary period, characterized by reversals for people's struggles. And although the capitalists were on the offensive everywhere, the capitalist system itself was increasingly decaying, more plagued by contradictions, as with the outsized role of the military in the U.S. economy, distorting the econ-

omy as a whole and dragging it down, all these contradictions getting worse and worse. All of this is why Marcy identified Duke as such a threat. He wasn't just any old racist in any old time, this was a serious fascist threat.

In that period, a demagogic fascist figure shifting the blame of the capitalist crisis onto the oppressed peoples was very dangerous. And all these trends are even more acute now.

We know these contradictions are driving resurgent fascism. But what can we do in such a period? The most reactionary sections of the ruling class have the upper hand. Trump and Musk are tearing up any part of the capitalist government that might actually help people, while bolstering the repressive state.

Trump's tariff war is fueling fears of recession, and any worker knows the economy is already bad. We're not going from a good economy to a bad economy, we're going from bad to worse.

People know things are bad, and they increasingly have a sense that it's going to take people in the streets to turn things around. And the courts, Congress, and the Democratic Party won't save us.

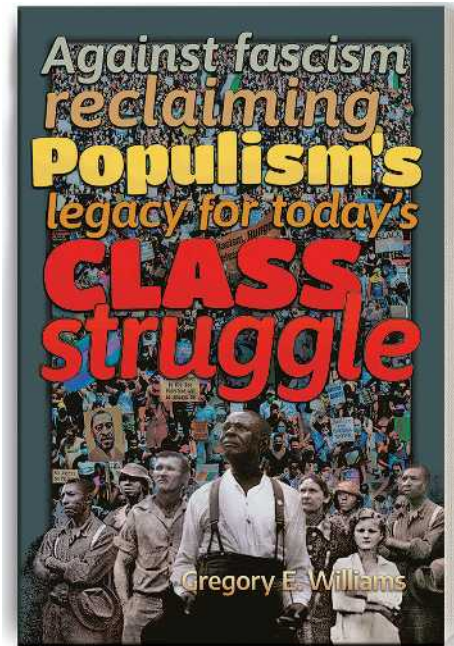
Militarism fuels fascism

During the past month, millions of people have protested all over the U.S. On April 5, tens of thousands came out for Palestine and immigrants in Washington, D.C., marching on ICE headquarters.

Millions also came out for the Hands Off and 50501 protests. And that is an encouraging sign that people are coming out, but we know movements controlled by the Democratic Party can't win the fight.

(And here's an aside for when we go into the history of the populist movement of the 1890s. A big part of the story of how their movement was derailed is that it ultimately was taken over by the Democratic Party. This isn't talked about enough in the book.)

Back to the Hands Off protests. People are rightly angered by the cuts to Medicaid and Social Security, etc., but the protest organizers included "hands off NATO" in their list of demands. Comrade John Parker wrote an article about the 50501 rallies, saying:



The book is available online:
tinyurl.com/Populism-book



"NATO and U.S. wars are never about democracy or freedom. They are about maintaining global dominance, fascism, poverty, and the subjugation of our international working class – starting with the Global South, Black and Brown, Palestinian, and anyone getting in the way of U.S. imperialism and its IMF and World Bank.

"We must be wary of progressives who sidestep these issues, especially those who avoid discussing Palestine, minimize police brutality, or demonize countries like Iran, Cuba, China, Venezuela, Nicaragua, the DPRK, and Russia. Of course, no state is without contradictions — but we must focus on the largest contradiction of all: the unchecked violence of U.S. imperialism."

That violence he's talking about is a driver of fascism, not least of all because it's fundamentally racist. The genocide happening in Gaza is absolutely racist, just like what the Nazis did. This is one place where we as revolutionaries can intervene. We have to be the ones to expose the role of militarism because the liberal groups won't do it.

For example, people have been protesting at Tesla dealerships, and I think that's a good thing, and shows the right instinct that billionaires need to be hit in the pocketbook, especially with strikes, but less attention is paid to Musk's military contracts.

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Fascism is capitalism in crisis

Continued from page 9

Gary Wilson, one of the editors of *Struggle – La Lucha*, recently wrote:

“SpaceX has established near-monopoly status in orbital launch capabilities, accounting for approximately 90% of mass launched into orbit in 2024. This dominant position makes the company indispensable for military and intelligence satellite deployment.”

SpaceX CEO Gwen Shotwell recently claimed that the company has \$22 billion in government contracts altogether. I don’t know if that’s the real total because some of these things are classified.

The book talks a good bit about Silicon Valley and how these tech capitalists are funding and promoting fascism, just like industrialists and bankers who bankrolled Hitler. And I’d like people reading the book to think about how Silicon Valley is fundamentally integrated into the military-industrial complex and fuels this kind of politics, and think about how tech is integrated into surveillance, policing, deportation, imprisonment.

A big part of what Trump’s doing right now is about militarism. He’s making an unprecedented increase in the military budget — \$1 trillion.

Anti-racist class unity needed

Another major theme in the book is class unity, class-conscious unity against racism, as Lallan Schoenstein put it in the interview she did for the Jena Six section. But it’s also class unity against the attacks on trans people and immigrants.

Take the sections on populism in this book. The book argues that Trump and Vance aren’t populists, as the media likes to claim. They call anybody who makes any kind of appeal to the masses, they call that populism, and there’s a history of that, and there’s a reason why it’s done, but it’s not true. Populism, like I said before, was a left-wing historical movement. What Trump and Vance represent is fascism.

When the populist movement was at its height in the 1890s, it was mainly based among farmers, who were also linked up with industrial laborers. They were coming up against big capitalist monopolies emerging in banking and industry, the Rockefellers, Standard Oil, JP Morgan. They were also up against the



A Klan march in Binghamton, New York, in the 1920s.

rich planters in the South in the post-Reconstruction period. And in order to stand any kind of chance, they needed class unity across racial lines. They needed Black and white unity.

Unfortunately, the populist movement never solved that problem, but they did make important strides, and the book goes into this a lot. They attempted alliances, which were very progressive for the day, but to a large extent, everywhere they failed it was because they didn’t have that unity. It was primarily due to the racism of white people in the movement. It wasn’t that the Black farmers wanted to have separate organizations, especially in the beginning. In a lot of cases, they weren’t allowed to be in the white organizations. And to some extent, they overcame that, but ultimately it didn’t go far enough. And that’s part of the reason they failed.

Some of the lessons for us come from the fact that, like our movement, the period in which the populists were operating was overall reactionary. It was during the rise of Jim Crow, which was the result of the counterrevolution against Reconstruction.

Reconstruction had been one of the most progressive eras in the country. One of the only times that there was a real specter of democracy. Both Black people and poor white farmers in the South made strides during the Reconstruction period after chattel slavery was ended. Reconstruction consolidated political and economic gains stemming from the heroic defeat of slavery.

But after Reconstruction was defeated, much of that process was reversed. I argue that the Klan terrorism of this period was fascist in character. Fascism didn’t just originate in Europe. U.S. racism in that period — not to mention the

whole history of colonization — you can’t really understand fascism without looking at colonialism. But particularly in this post-Reconstruction period, Klan terrorism was a precursor of fascism.

Just like today, the scapegoating and bigotry are all about keeping the people disunited so they can’t fight our real

enemies, the rich. And this picture of a Klan rally [in PowerPoint] isn’t from the 19th Century. It’s from the 20s in New York, but I thought that was a really good one because you see exactly where the “America first” slogan came from. You could put this right into 2025, “one God, one country, one flag” — it’s all the same stuff.

Organize and study for upsurges ahead

Finally, I want to say that a book like this can’t tell us what we should do in our moment. It can’t give us a blueprint. Even with the writings of great revolutionary figures, we don’t get a blueprint. That has to be figured out through the movement itself. But the book does try to document some flashpoints of current struggles.

When I was going back and editing, it was interesting to see these snapshots of our recent past — of demonstrations we’ve done, marches we’ve been at, because, often with the social media news cycles, as soon as things happen, they’re sort of forgotten. And everything is just so ahistorical. Even the recent past. This was on display after Oct. 7. They started every news segment with “the war started by Hamas on Oct. 7,” without mentioning the history of colonization. Everything is given without a context.

I hope the book can help spark political discussion, both about history and present-day strategy. Right now, they’re trying to erase history in every conceivable way. In general, if we can have more collective study in the movement, that would be good. These kinds of discussion groups are important. It’s a way for us to build our collective consciousness. That’s essential for us to win against the fascist enemy. #

Locomotive engineers shut down New Jersey Transit

By Stephen Millies

May 16 — Four hundred fifty members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen went on strike at 12:01 a.m. today against New Jersey Transit. The railroad workers, who belong to the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, have been without a wage increase since 2019 despite prices and rent going through the roof.

NJ Transit engineers are being paid \$10 less per hour than other engineers on Amtrak, Long Island, and Metro North railroads. The strikers often use the same tracks, serve the same stations, obey the same signals and follow the same rules as their Amtrak counterparts, yet they are paid far less.

On the final day, union negotiators held a 15-hour bargaining session with management, but the railroad bosses refused to budge.

New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy, a Democrat, apologized to the over 100,000 railroad commuters affected by the strike, blaming the workers for the shutdown. It's Murphy and his corporate backers who have forced these workers to strike.

NJ Transit engineers are on strike.

SLL photo: Stephen Millies

Murphy doesn't have to worry about frozen wages and rising rents. In 2024, the former Wall Street banker reported income of \$1.4 million, double his take from the year before.

While management claims the union demands are unaffordable, they spent \$500 million on their lavish new headquarters. Just the \$53 million spent on interior decoration could have paid for the engineers' demands twice over.

Murphy and NJ Transit management are refusing to bargain in good faith because they fear being forced to give wage justice to other railroad workers, too.

The union members I met today in front of Pennsylvania Station in New York City were strong and confident. Railroaders remember how Congress



schemed with the freight railroads in 2022 to stop a strike.

The struggle of the NJ Transit engineers shows the way forward for millions of other workers at Amazon and Walmart. Victory to the strikers!

Stephen Millies is a retired Amtrak worker and a member of the American Train Dispatchers Association and Transportation Communications International Union.

Mumia Abu-Jamal embraces the LGBTQ+ movement

Continued from page 3

Black children soon thereafter.

"That's the nature of the fascist beast: attack those who seem weak, isolate them, destroy them. Since Charlottesville, we've seen the emergence of rightist racist forces that are committed to destroying Black life and to proving that Black lives don't matter.

"The lives of Black people are the literal foundation not just of America but all of us. We need to build a radical movement that protects all of us, for all of us can consign such racist violence to the trash heaps of history.

"From Imprisoned Nation, this is Mumia Abu-Jamal."

Noelle Hanrahan of Prison Radio wrote: "I 'came out' to Mumia on my second recording trip in 1992. Sitting across

from him, I said you know the committee in San Francisco that is your defense committee has 10 women on it. Seven are lesbians. He was shocked, yet open. I told him Alice Walker was bi, Angela Davis was a lesbian, Bayard Rustin, James Baldwin were gay.

"He was profoundly curious. Warm. He asked, 'Why?' I said, 'We're deeply oppressed by this society and those of us who are revolutionaries see our liberation bound intrinsically with yours.'

"Mumia, while complicated, is one of the warmest persons I have ever met. Mumia Abu-Jamal's instinctual curiosity and warm wonder, his lack of judgment or distance and harshness, kept me coming back. I see him 3-4 times a month, strategizing about his freedom, because when we love we win, when we survive we win, when we fight we win."

Bob Lederer ended his interview by thanking "the amazing Mumia Abu-Jamal for the interviews. Special thanks to two dedicated Free Mumia activists, Dr. Suzanne Ross of International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia, Noelle Hanrahan of PrisonRadio.org, Johanna Fernandez of the Campaign to Bring Mumia Home, Pam Africa, Dawn Reel, and Betsy Mickel. Thanks to Nathaniel Moore and Claude Marks of the Freedom Archives for providing the audio of Dhoruba Bin Wahad. And thanks to my Out-FM colleague and husband John Riley for providing production support, as well as to my two collectives, Out-FM and Resistance in Brooklyn, for advice. And thanks to WBAI studio engineer Max Schmid. Our closing music will be 'Never a Prisoner! Free Mumia,' by Rebel Diaz." #

Gaza genocide: Deliberate famine,

By Electronic Intifada

Israel has accelerated its attacks on Palestinians in Gaza, massacring dozens of people each day in tent shelters, in schools turned into housing for displaced families, in residential buildings and inside two hospitals.

Israeli Prime Minister and war crimes fugitive Benjamin Netanyahu declared that even if captured Israeli soldiers are released under the terms of a ceasefire, he is still intent on escalating attacks and “destroying Hamas.”

He said, “we’ll take them,” meaning the Israeli captives, “and then we’ll go in. There will be no way we will stop the war.”

Netanyahu boasted to lawmakers in the Knesset’s Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that the Israeli army is “destroying more and more houses [in Gaza, and that Palestinians] have nowhere to return.”



Israeli tanks advanced near Gaza’s northern city of Beit Lahia on 16 May.

“The only obvious result will be Gazans choosing to emigrate outside of the Strip,” Netanyahu continued. “But our main problem is finding countries to take them in.”

Since Israel broke the ceasefire on 18 March, the Palestinian health ministry in Gaza says that more than 2,800 Palestinians have been killed and nearly 8,000 have been injured. The ministry states

Israel begins ‘Gideon’s Chariots’ operation

By Palestine Chronicle staff

Mass casualties reported as Israel begins its latest military push to occupy parts of Gaza and escalate the war.

At least 120 Palestinians have been killed and over 200 others wounded in Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip since dawn, as the Israeli military began expanding its operations on May 17.

Al-Jazeera reported that three people were killed and several were injured in an Israeli airstrike on a home in Tel al-Zaatar, northern Gaza. The victims were taken to the Indonesian Hospital in Beit Lahia.

Elsewhere in the northern part of the enclave, multiple Palestinians were injured in a strike near the Andalus Tower in Gaza City. The wounded were rushed to Al-Shifa Medical Complex, where doctors described one case as critical.

In the south, an Israeli drone strike on the Ma’an area east of Khan Yunis killed two and wounded four others. Another strike on Bani Suhaila, also east of Khan Yunis, left six people dead and others injured. Casualties were transferred to Nasser Hospital.

Palestinian sources also confirmed that three people were wounded in an attack on a tent near the Taiba Towers in a so-called ‘humanitarian’ zone west of Khan Yunis. Israeli warplanes also struck Al-Qarara town, northeast of the city.

Additional casualties were reported after an Israeli airstrike targeted tents housing displaced people near Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah, central Gaza.

“The surge in Palestinian casualties comes as the Israeli army officially expands its military campaign in Gaza under what it calls Operation Gideon’s Chariots.

According to the Israeli military, the campaign involves widespread airstrikes and ground operations aimed at “achieving all war objectives,” including the release of detainees and the dismantling of the Palestinian resistance group Hamas.

Israeli media previously reported that this expanded phase would follow the conclusion of U.S. President Donald Trump’s recent tour of the Gulf region — should no new agreement on Gaza materialize. Trump departed the UAE at the

end of the tour without announcing any diplomatic breakthrough.

The Israeli Security Cabinet approved the plan for Operation Gideon’s Chariots in early May, triggering the mobilization of tens of thousands of reservists. The operation’s name, evoking the 1948 ‘Operation Gideon’ used to seize Beit Shean and displace Palestinians, signals a deliberate historical and ideological continuity.

According to the Israeli Broadcasting Authority (KAN), the current operation aims to occupy all of Gaza and forcibly evacuate the population from active combat zones — particularly northern Gaza — into designated areas in the south.

During the three-day visit by Trump, the Israeli army killed over 378 Palestinians—nearly four times the number of those killed in the four days prior, according to the Gaza Ministry of Health.

Since October 7, 2023, Israel’s military campaign in Gaza — backed by the United States — has left approximately 173,000 Palestinians either dead or injured. Most of the victims are women and children. Over 11,000 remain missing beneath the rubble. #

forced displacement

that as of 14 May, approximately 53,000 Palestinians have been killed since 7 October 2023, with thousands more missing and buried under the rubble.

On 15 May, more than 100 people were killed in airstrikes on homes and tent shelters in Jabaliya, Khan Younis, and other areas in Gaza.

On 14 May, the Israeli army issued forced displacement orders for Palestinians in Gaza City, including yet another order to empty Al-Shifa Hospital.

The army spokesperson said that Israel planned to attack “with great force.”

The Israeli military had killed more than 80 Palestinians since dawn on Wednesday, including approximately 50 killed in Jabaliya, in northern Gaza.

Al Jazeera reporter Tareq Abu Azzoum stated that air strikes targeted five residential buildings packed with civilians in Jabaliya and the Jabaliya refugee camp.

“Civil defense teams reported that the scene of the attack was horrific.

Firsthand accounts say the Israeli army launched consecutive strikes without any prior warning and that many of the victims remain under the rubble. We continue to get testimonies saying the morgue of the Indonesian Hospital has been flooded with bodies,” Abu Azzoum stated.

Mohammad Awad, an emergency doctor in the Indonesian Hospital, told the French news agency AFP that supply shortages meant his department could not properly handle the flow of wounded.

“There are not enough beds, no medicine, and no means for surgical or medical treatment, which leaves doctors unable to save many of the injured who are dying due to lack of care,” he said.

Jabaliya has been under heavy bombardment all week. On Friday 9 May, a United Nations aid distribution center that had also been sheltering displaced families was attacked, killing at least four Palestinians.

On 11 May, Israel bombed the Fatima

Bani Assad school that has been sheltering displaced families, killing at least 15 people. Journalist Mahmoud Abusalama reported from the scene. He said that the Israeli military bombed the school, turning the site into widespread destruction. “Displaced people were sleeping, holding onto the hope of a ceasefire agreement, but Israeli airstrikes targeted them here without warning.”

Israeli gunboats fired on Gaza fishers on 10 May, injuring Palestinians trying to find any source of food for their families in the sea.

Two Khan Younis hospitals bombed

On Tuesday, 13 May, Israel bombed two hospitals in Khan Younis, in the south – the European Gaza Hospital and the Nasser Medical Complex.

Israel used bunker buster bombs and firebelts on the European Gaza Hospi-

Continued on page 14

Never forget the Palestinian Nakba

77th anniversary of the Zionist ethnic cleansing

May 10—Hundreds of people marched today in the Brooklyn, New York, neighborhood of Bay Ridge to commemorate the 1948 slaughter of Palestinians that established the Zionist regime. These atrocities are called the Nakba, which means catastrophe in Arabic.

The founding of apartheid “Israel” resulted in 531 Palestinian villages being wiped off the map. Among the thousands of Palestinians killed were the 140 murdered in the village of Deir Yassin on April 9, 1948.

Many of their bodies were thrown down wells. Among the killers was the future Israeli prime minister Menachem Begin, who led the terrorist Irgun gang, a Zionist Ku Klux Klan.

Today’s action was called by PAL Awda, the Palestinian Assembly for Liberation, and was endorsed by 40 other organizations and individuals. People gathered on Brooklyn’s Fifth Avenue, in the heart of the Palestinian Community in Bay Ridge.

Speakers denounced the continuing



SLL photo: Stephen Millies

mass murder in Gaza, which continues with the U.S. bombs supplied first by Biden and then by Trump. The genocide in Gaza and the West Bank is an attempt to complete the Nakba, targeting the families of those driven from their homes in 1948.

People marched through the neighborhood, carrying Palestinian flags and chanting, “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free!” They were greeted by families on their stoops and flying Palestinian flags from windows.

Demonstrators blocked the entrance of a Citibank branch, forcing it to shut

down for the day. Citi, a financial octopus with assets of \$1.7 trillion, helps finance the genocide in Gaza.

Between October 2023 and January 2025, Citibank underwrote \$2.9 billion in bonds to the Zionist regime. Citi, which has more branches in occupied Palestine than any other outside bank, also financed the Zionist state’s \$2.5 billion purchase of 25 U.S.-made F-35 jet fighters. These supposedly “most advanced fighters in the world” now rain U.S.-made missiles on families sleeping in tents.

Omowale Clay, chairperson of the December 12th Movement, reminded marchers of how Citibank also helped finance the old apartheid regime in South Africa. Africans overthrew apartheid, and so will the Palestinians.

A speaker from Planet over Profits pointed out that Citibank also lends billions to Big Oil and other fossil fuel capitalists who are cooking the earth. The demonstration, more than a block long, marched back to Fifth Avenue, which is lined with Arabic stores and restaurants.

All over the world, people are commemorating the Nakba and condemning the genocide in Gaza. Palestine will win!#

GAZA: Deliberate famine, forced displacement

Continued from page 13

tal, killing at least 28 Palestinians and wounding dozens in multiple strikes. Israeli media claimed, without evidence, that there were tunnels under the hospital and that Muhammad Sinwar, the military commander of the Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of Hamas, was the target of the attack.

CCTV footage obtained by Al Jazeera shows the moment Israel bombed the courtyard of the hospital.

Journalist Moaz Abu Taha spoke to hospital staff and medical workers who showed massive pieces of shrapnel that tore through the facility.

Both staff and medical workers described shrapnel and the bombing ripping through emergency areas and damaging parts of the building.

Attacks on the European Gaza Hospital continued on Wednesday 14 May. Six consecutive airstrikes hit areas around the hospital compound, targeting a bulldozer that was working to clear rubble and recover bodies underneath from Tuesday's attacks.

A doctor at the European Gaza Hospital, Adnan Issa, recorded a voice message for logistics coordinator Afeef Nessouli who works with the medical group Gila in Gaza. Issa said that there was continuous bombing.

As of Thursday, 15 May, the European Gaza Hospital has been forced to close completely. The Palestinian health ministry in Gaza says that Israel's attacks caused significant damage to infrastructure, including sewage lines, damage to internal departments and destruction of roads leading to the hospital.

Nasser Medical Complex, also in Khan Younis, was bombed in the pre-dawn hours on Tuesday 13 May, killing two Palestinians.

Eighteen hospital beds in the surgical department, eight beds in the intensive care unit and 10 inpatient beds were destroyed, according to medical sources.

Third month of starvation

More than 70 days have passed since Israel closed all the crossings into Gaza, creating mass starvation and an engineered medical catastrophe for Gaza's 2 million Palestinians.

The Palestinian health ministry in Gaza stated on 11 May that there is now

a dangerous acceleration of a severe shortage of pharmaceutical supplies, and that 43 percent of essential medicines are at zero stock. 64 percent of medical supplies are at zero stock, and emergency, operating room, and intensive care units are operating on depleted stocks, with critical cases on the rise.

Since the aid blockade began on 2 March, 57 children have reportedly died from the effects of malnutrition, according to the health ministry. This number is likely an underestimate and is expected to increase.

A new alert published on 12 May by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, the global standard for assessing food insecurity, says that starvation has reached unprecedented levels.

The entire population of Gaza is now classified in the emergency phase, with more than 71,000 children aged 6 months to 5 years suffering from acute malnutrition – including more than 14,000 severe cases.

The situation is growing equally dire for pregnant and breastfeeding women, with an estimated 18,400 women expected to require urgent treatment to avoid life-threatening and irreversible health consequences for both mothers and infants.

Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor says a "silent death" is sweeping through Gaza's community of elders as well.

"Now entering its third consecutive month, the intensified siege has had devastating and long-term effects – disproportionately harming Gaza's most vulnerable," Euro-Med says.

"Israel's systematic policy seeks to destroy all means of survival and eliminate any path to staying alive. This deepens the humanitarian catastrophe, making it a central instrument in the execution of genocidal policy."

"Over the past week, 14 elderly Palestinians were documented to have died across Gaza from complications related to hunger, malnutrition, and lack of medical care. These deaths are directly linked to Israel's complete closure of border crossings and its prevention of humanitarian aid and essential goods from entering the Strip since 2 March," the rights group stated.

A proposed Israeli-American mechanism for humanitarian aid in Gaza, Euro-Med added, "is nothing more than a

new maneuver aimed at prolonging the illegal and comprehensive blockade. It repackages the crime of starvation in a misleading humanitarian guise, falsely legitimising its continued use as a weapon in the ongoing crime of genocide."

The aid agency Oxfam said this week that "Gaza's starvation is not incidental – it is deliberate, entirely engineered – and has now created the largest population facing starvation anywhere in the world – a preventable famine unfolding in real time. It is unconscionable and is being allowed to happen."

Home demolitions

Turning to the occupied West Bank, Israeli forces on 14 May demolished more homes in the Nur Shams refugee camp in the northern city of Tulkarm as the military aggression on the camp entered the 95th day, according to local news reports.

Wafa news agency reported that Israeli bulldozers tore down residential buildings in the vicinity of the Abu Bakr As-Siddiq mosque, at a time when infantry soldiers deployed on a large scale and opened live ammunition at Palestinian civilians and even at media personnel.

The Israeli soldiers obstructed residents from entering the refugee camp to retrieve their belongings before the demolition of their houses.

Local estimates indicate that Israeli army bulldozers tore down 20 structures in the previous week, and the occupation troops blew up other residential structures whose owners were displaced.

Two weeks ago, on 1 May, Israeli occupying forces issued military orders to demolish 106 Palestinian-owned structures in Tulkarm and Nur Shams refugee camps, giving residents 24 hours to evacuate.

In Jenin, also in the northern West Bank, Israeli forces have expanded their incursion into the Jenin refugee camp for more than 115 days.

The Jenin municipality said that Israeli forces have completely demolished approximately 600 homes inside the camp, while the rest have been partially damaged and rendered uninhabitable. The occupation continues to fire live ammunition intensively in the camp, Wafa news agency reported.

Excerpted from reports on Electronic Intifada

'All night, all day'

Students demand justice for Freddie Gray and Palestine

Jace Carter addressed the Baltimore Hands Off Our Students Protest & March that gathered at Penn Station, April 27, 2025. Over a hundred students from many of the area campuses attended.

Good afternoon, sisters, brothers and siblings. My name is Jace, and I'm with the People's Power Assembly, an organization that has been fighting against racist police terror and for the rights of poor, working-class people since the murder of Trayvon Martin in 2012.

We were also on the frontlines after Freddie Gray's murder by the Zionist-trained BPD during the Baltimore Uprising in 2015. And on this, the 10th anniversary of Freddie Gray's murder, and today in particular (April 27) being the day of his funeral, I stand here today to say it's still: All night, all day, justice for Freddie Gray!

All night, all day, justice for Freddie Gray! All night, all day, we will fight for Freddie Gray!

I am also, unfortunately, a recent graduate of Loyola University Maryland, a liberal institution that is very anti-worker and very deep in the pockets of the capitalists. Shame! In November of 2023, the People's Power Assembly marched across the Evergreen Quad in solidarity with the students who had newly formed the Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) chapter at Loyola. The administration had the audacity to call Loyola Police on this demonstration to break it up, calling it an "unauthorized gathering," claiming that we "didn't have the proper permits and approvals," and whatnot.

After this demonstration, the administration threatened leaders within this



Jace Carter speaks out at the Baltimore protest on April 27.

SJP chapter with expulsion if they did not immediately disband the chapter. Shame!

I am deeply ashamed to have been part of an institution that prides itself on how many community partnerships it claims to have, and also claims that its student body doesn't live in that infamous "bubble" that was mentioned earlier. The people I went to this shameful institution with called our York Road neighbors, and I quote, "dirty, homeless druggies," and are deathly afraid to walk York Road at any time of day out of "fear." Call it what it is, it's outright racism!

I was also part of a social justice organization on campus as a work-study student my senior year, where I actively witnessed my best friend and roommate, who also worked there, get her wages re-

peatedly stolen by her supervisor. I ended up resigning my position in disgrace because when I tried to call this shameful shit out, I was considered crazy.

I say all this to say that as blood brothers, sisters and siblings in the struggle, especially to my fellow student organizers and activists, I continue to stand in solidarity with you all, fighting against your oppressive institutions, and we will continue to fight like hell to make our demands fully enacted!

And one last thing that I want to say (this is a very short speech) is that Mahmoud Khalil should be home today with his wife and newborn son, and not sitting in an ICE detention facility 1,400 miles away in Louisiana!

Free Palestine! Long live the student intifada! Till victory!



CHINA Celebrating 75 years of liberation

October 1, 2024, marked the 75th anniversary of China's transformative revolution, which liberated the nation from feudal oppression and imperialist control. Today, China stands as a global scientific powerhouse, boasting achievements in pollution reduction, and space exploration. China has made significant strides in healthcare, education, and sports.

This book aims to illuminate the growing dangers posed by a potential U.S. war against China and to reveal the real enemies of the working class.

<https://tinyurl.com/USWarChina>

The failure of tariffs in a declining empire

By Gary Wilson

Speaking to Congress after 100 days in office, President Donald Trump claimed that the new tariffs on imports are about reindustrialization, “making America rich again and making America great again,” he said.

Every declining empire built upon exploitation and conquest has clung to the dream of reviving the former glory and splendor of its golden age of robbery and oppression in one final, desperate attempt.

Executive orders and oligarchic rule

To impose the tariffs, the Trump administration has turned to oligarchic rule, the authoritarianism of the billionaires. Tariffs are a form of taxation that the Constitution explicitly reserves for Congress. Usurping the authority of Congress by invoking emergency executive powers to impose tariffs is part of Trump’s mode of autocratic governance, including defiance of judicial rulings and aggressive actions against immigrants and political opponents.

Why do Trump and his gang of billionaire oligarchs think that tariffs are necessary to encourage “reindustrialization”?

The decay of the profit motive

The root cause is the decay of capitalism’s core engine — the profit motive. At one time, the profit motive was the driver of economic development; now it has become an obstacle. Monopolies stifle competition, and filling shareholders’ pockets takes priority over expanded production, so unstable financial speculation now dwarfs productive industry.

Profit maximization has driven globalization. Banks and monopoly corporations often move production to countries with low wages to increase profit margins.

The monopolistic dominance that once secured U.S. global supremacy is now paralyzing its capacity to compete. Even the capitalist class acknowledges that the profit-driven system cannot generate reindustrialization on its own, revealing a fundamental flaw in the capitalist system.



Tariffs: An admission of failure

The goal of reindustrialization through tariffs is not a solution but an admission of failure. It reveals that capitalism can no longer be fixed through its own mechanisms.

The reality is that capitalism’s decline is irreversible. No amount of government intervention by Trump (or anyone else) can resuscitate a mode of production that prioritizes the extraction of profit over renewal, over developing and building what’s needed.

Capitalism’s fixation on profits has undermined its productive foundations.

What real reindustrialization would require

To “Make America Great Again,” to reindustrialize and develop what’s needed, would require policies and actions that are exactly the opposite of what Trump is doing.

Reindustrialization would require an expanding workforce, not Trump’s anti-immigrant purge.

Reindustrialization requires skilled workers. The Reagan administration made substantial cuts in federal education spending, laying the groundwork for the neoliberal reforms of the Clinton administration, whose privatization mandates and emphasis on market-based solutions accelerated the erosion of the public education system.

The reindustrialization campaign pushed by the Biden administration led to Taiwan-based TSMC, the world’s largest contract chipmaker, announcing in April 2024 that it would establish manufacturing facilities in Arizona. While there was a great deal of publicity when it was announced, the project remains in development with no certainty when production will begin.

The company has had difficulty finding skilled local workers, leading to delays in the project’s timeline. To mitigate the skilled labor shortage, TSMC has brought in over 1,000 experienced workers from Taiwan to assist with the installation. Approximately 50% of the current workforce setting up the Arizona facility are Taiwanese workers.

The company has instituted a local educational program in reading and math for the tech skills required. The Arizona Academic Standards Assessment, or AASA, results show that only 40% of the students in the public school system passed the reading (English Language Arts) test, only 32% passed the basic math test.

The alternative: Production for need, not profit

Reindustrializing and building what’s needed would require a system driven by production based on needs, not on profit — socialism. #

FROM SANKARA TO TRAORÉ: Burkina Faso's anti-imperialist legacy

By Colby Byrd

Burkina Faso sits again on the frontlines against U.S./Western imperialism.

Prior to 2022, Burkina Faso was completely under the control of French neocolonial rule and oppression. The Burkinabe government — previously under the rule of Paul-Henri Damiba, a high-ranking officer of the Burkinabe military — allowed France to plunder the country for natural resources, including gold and uranium.

Under France's "supervision" the military was not allowed to procure weapons to defend the country from attacks. Burkina Faso had to borrow weapons and ammunition from neighboring countries in order to respond to attacks by groups like the Nusra Front and Islamic State.

As a result, response times exceeded 72 hours before a counterattack could be mounted to defend the villages and people of Burkina Faso. France would also dictate if and when the Burkinabe military could respond and defend its territory.

This humiliating pattern of neocolonial domination was broken in September 2022 when Field Artillery Captain Ibrahim Traoré led a military coup ousting Damiba and many other French-backed officers and politicians. After the ousting of these puppet figures, Ibrahim Traoré and the new revolutionary government of Burkina Faso set out to erase all remnants of French rule.

They nationalized the country's gold mines and set up its own gold refineries. Ibrahim Traoré personally ensured that education and health care for all people of Burkina Faso were accessible. The government also modernized the country's infrastructure.

From modernizing the Thomas Sankara International Airport in Ouagadougou to paving fresh roads and purchasing state-of-the-art agricultural and medical machinery and equipment, the revolutionary government has invested the country's newfound wealth back into the people.

These great strides were met with an outpouring of love from not only the peo-



In Burkina Faso, tens of thousands rallied in support of interim President Ibrahim Traoré on April 30.

tional defense have shortened response times to attacks to 18 hours at most.

Also, following the failed coup, the people of Burkina Faso took to the streets on April 30 to show

massive support for Ibrahim Traoré and the revolutionary government.

Burkina Faso has also gone about creating stronger alliances with its Sahel neighbors, namely creating the Alliance of Sahel States with Mali and Niger. Ibrahim Traoré has made it his mission to, in his own words, "finish what Thomas Sankara started."

The Russian government has taken steps to aid in the defense of Burkina Faso and its new government, with the countries entering into mutual aid pacts and Russian military assets deployed to help defend government officials and buildings.

Ibrahim Traoré is a guiding light to all revolutionaries and a true leader for the Global South and Black people everywhere.

Power to Ibrahim Traoré and the Revolutionary government!

Rest in Power Thomas Sankara!

Long live the people of Burkina Faso!

Long live International Solidarity!#

ple of Burkina Faso, but the greater community of the Black diaspora.

However, the West has not sat idly. U.S. General Michael Langley, the head of AFRICOM, declared Ibrahim Traoré a threat to the people of Burkina Faso. Langley lied, saying Traoré was using the country's wealth for himself. The lie is meant to justify the schemes meant to create instability in Burkina Faso.

There have been multiple coups and assassination attempts against Ibrahim Traoré. Most recently, the intelligence services uncovered and foiled a coup attempt that was meant to take place on April 16. The coup was organized by current and former members of the Burkinabe military and government alongside the Islamic extremists whom the West backs.

After the coup was foiled, the government accelerated the necessary steps to reach a long-lasting, self-sustaining national defense industry. They have built factories to produce all forms of military hardware. These improvements in na-

DPRK troops defend Russia against U.S./NATO-backed fascist Kiev regime

By Lev Koufax

On April 28, the governments of Russia and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK or North Korea) confirmed the intervention of the North Korean military in Russia's war with the NATO-backed fascist regime in Kiev. As part of the operation, several thousand DPRK special forces troopers assisted Russian efforts to retake Ukraine-occupied territory in the Russian state of Kursk.

Russian President Vladimir Putin thanked "North Korean friends [who] acted in the spirit of solidarity, justice, and true camaraderie." Putin further commented that the DPRK troops defended Russia as if it were their own homeland. The DPRK followed up with its own statements, not only confirming the deployment but providing some political perspective.

Pyeongyang framed the Ukrainian regime as "neo-Nazi" and described the North Korean military's role in frustrating "an adventurous political and military attempt of the Western forces and the Ukrainian authorities" to change the momentum of the war.

The Ukrainian offensive into Kursk began in August 2024. While claiming to be fighting a defensive war, Ukraine justified the incursion as creating leverage for peace talks. In reality, all the Ukrainian offensive accomplished was the sacrifice of life, destruction of expensive equipment, and to signal an escalation to Russia in an already bloody and dangerous war. Ukraine occupied between 100 and 400 square miles of Russian territory in Kursk until a successful Russian counter-attack in April 2025.

Reports of Ukrainian abuses in Kursk

Russian citizens in Kursk have reported widespread abuses by Ukrainian forces, including the execution of unarmed prisoners, destruction of religious sites, and the shelling of residential areas. A resident of Sudzha told Russian war crime investigators, "Ukrainian armed forces tried to kill all of us, ordinary Russian people. I think this is just Nazism, genocide. I still can't get it into my head. I'll tell you honestly, I saw someone who came to kill. They came to exterminate the Russian people, just kill people."



Russian President Vladimir Putin greeted a delegation of North Korean officers after hosting a military parade marking the 80th anniversary of the Soviet victory in World War II.

government (that is, the U.S.-backed Maidan coup in Kiev in 2014). The DPRK did not relentlessly bomb the Donbass region for a decade. Ukraine and its

NATO backers did that.

The State Department's moral superiority about the DPRK's solidarity with Russia is particularly rich considering a March 29 report from the New York Times detailing the U.S. military involvement in Ukraine since the beginning of the war. The report essentially confirms the reality many have known for three years – the U.S. military has directed the war effort against Russia in Ukraine from the start. This war, often framed as Russia's "invasion of Ukraine," is in truth a NATO-U.S. campaign to weaken, isolate, and ultimately destroy the United Federation of Russia.

Resistance against imperialism

North Korean participation in the defense of Kursk is not a collaboration of authoritarian governments, and it certainly isn't responsible for the long and bloody conflict. However, the DPRK's intervention in the war is a stunning demonstration of solidarity between the two countries. The collaboration between the two countries against imperialism and fascism reaches back 80 years to when the Soviet Red Army, in collaboration with the Korean People's Revolutionary Army led by Kim Il Sung, liberated the Korean peninsula from imperial Japanese occupation. The two countries have maintained close diplomatic, cultural, military, and economic ties since.

As long as the United States and its allies insist on unleashing imperialist war across the world to create new markets and exploit more workers, there will be countries and people who stand up and resist. That is exactly what Russia and the DPRK are doing, and what the people of both countries have done since they defeated fascism and imperialism on their respective fronts of World War II. #

At the time the Ukrainian offensive began, U.S. corporate media noted that the incursion relied heavily upon Western tanks, artillery, and armored vehicles. The West continues to provide ample evidence that this war in Ukraine has been a U.S. imperialist provocation against Russia from the outset.

As of April 26, Russian forces had retaken the vast majority of the occupied Kursk territory, including the strategic city of Sudzha. Soon after Putin's announcement of North Korean support, footage was released showing Russian and North Korean soldiers embracing after liberating a village near the aforementioned Sudzha.

The imagery of soldiers from the two countries struggling together against a NATO-backed white supremacist Ukraine rang similar to scenes of the Soviet liberation of Warsaw and Berlin towards the end of World War II.

The United States and South Korea, of course, swiftly condemned the DPRK's assistance to Russia as "a criminal act" and "inhumane and immoral." The U.S. State Department even went as far as to say that the DPRK's support for Russia is responsible for prolonging the war. This is the same State Department that, by its own admission, has provided at least \$66.5 billion in military assistance to Ukraine since 2022. The equipment provided with State Department funds included hundreds of artillery pieces, air defense systems and missiles, tanks, armored vehicles, small arms, and aircraft.

It is laughable for the State Department to lecture North Korea on the alleged prolonging of the war when the war would never have happened without NATO provocation and U.S. military aid. The DPRK did not launch a fascist coup against a democratically-elected

Yemen stands firm: U.S. bombing campaign halted

By Gary Wilson

U.S. President Donald Trump announced on May 6 the abrupt end to “Operation Rough Rider,” a relentless bombing campaign targeting Yemen in retaliation for its principled solidarity with Palestine. The announcement came after months of fierce Yemeni resistance, which saw U.S. and British forces squander billions on failed military aggression while Ansar Allah inflicted significant losses on their advanced weaponry.

Trump’s capitulation, framed as a “gesture of peace,” followed secret talks mediated by Oman. Yet Ansar Allah leaders swiftly clarified that their resistance would persist until Zionist genocide in Gaza ends. Mohammed Nasser Al-Bukhaiti, a senior Ansar Allah official, affirmed: “Our operations in support of Gaza will continue until the blockade is lifted. If the U.S. halts its attacks, we will reciprocate. But solidarity with Palestine is non-negotiable.”

Imperialist escalation meets Yemeni defiance

The Biden administration’s earlier bombing campaign, totaling 931 strikes, was less intense than Trump’s assault, which involved more than a thousand strikes within just a few months. This escalation, joined by British forces in April, aimed to crush Yemen’s blockade of Israeli-linked ships in the Red Sea — a blockade enacted in response to Israel’s starvation of Gaza.

Yet Yemen’s resolve proved unshakable. Ansar Allah downed seven U.S. Reaper drones (worth \$200 million). At least three \$60 million fighter jets have been lost by the USS Harry Truman aircraft carrier since December. On April 30, Ansar Allah military spokesperson Yahya Sarea said in a televised statement on Yemen’s al-Masirah TV channel that the attack in the Red Sea resulted in the



Photo: Mohammed Hamoud/Anadolu Agency

More than a million Yemenis march with Palestinian flags chanting the slogan “We are with you until victory” as they stage a protest against Israeli attacks on Gaza, in Sana’a, Yemen.

“downing of an F-18 fighter jet into the sea” and forced the Truman to “retreat toward the Suez Canal.”

Also on May 6, the same day as Trump’s announced end to the bombing campaign, Yemen’s Humanitarian Operations Coordination Center warned airlines worldwide to avoid Israeli airports. On May 4, the Yemeni Armed Forces, the military wing of Ansar Allah, launched a Palestine-2 hypersonic missile that traveled more than 1,250 miles before striking the entrance of Ben Gurion airport. The missile bypassed multiple layers of Israeli and U.S. air defenses, including the Arrow 2, Arrow 3, and THAAD systems.

Yemen is one of only five countries — Russia, China, Iran and North Korea being the others — to have working hypersonic missiles. These missiles travel at around 10 times the speed of sound on

their re-entry phase and can maneuver away from air defense missiles, which is why the missile attack on Ben Gurion got through. The United States does not currently have any operational hypersonic weapons in its arsenal and has been unable to develop a viable hypersonic system.

War crimes expose U.S. barbarity

Blatant war crimes have marked the U.S.-British bombardment:

April 28: A migrant detention center in Saada was obliterated, slaughtering 68 African refugees.

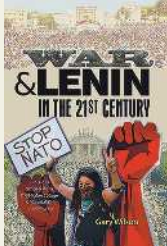
April 21: A Sana’a market strike killed 12 civilians.

April 17: The Ras Isa oil terminal was bombed twice, killing over 70 and crippling Yemen’s fuel infrastructure.

These atrocities, condemned under international law as collective punishment, underscore the brutality of imperialist warfare.

Yemen’s historic anti-imperialist legacy

Yemen’s resistance is rooted in a century of struggle. From expelling British colonizers in 1967 to opposing the 1991 U.S. Gulf War, Yemen has consistently defied imperial dictates. Today, their solidarity with Palestine echoes this legacy, exposing the fragility of U.S. hegemony. #



‘WAR & LENIN in the 21st Century’

U.S. complicity in the Gaza genocide and military profiteering.

Written by Gary Wilson on the centenary of Vladimir Lenin’s death Lenin was the revolutionary leader of the Soviet Union and key contributor to Marxist theory. Book includes Lenin’s work: “Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism” in 1916. It remains an influential critique of imperialism.

tinyurl.com/LeninAndWar

Targeted by fascism,

Bob McCubbin on defending



*Following is part one of an interview with gay communist activist Bob McCubbin, who has organized and written political analysis since the 1960s. He is the author of the 2019 book, **The Social Evolution of Humanity: Marx and Engels were right!** With Pride month approaching, *Struggle-La Lucha* writer Gregory E. Williams sat down with McCubbin to explore the LGBTQ+ struggle's revolutionary history and what it means for today's fight back.*

Gregory Williams: You were in the revolutionary movement at the time of Stonewall, and you've been in the struggle ever since. But what's happening right now with all the fascist attacks that are coming down? Where's that coming from, and what can we do about it?

Bob McCubbin: We should have a discussion about fascism, because it's what we're facing right now. And there are various ways to explain it. Scholars and revolutionaries who studied the fascist movement in Germany – which was in the leadership of the European imperialists – that was a form of fascism designed to crush a very strong workers' movement in Germany, which was challenging the capitalists as a result of the First World War.

Germany was forced into a very difficult economic position. The workers' movement grew and grew and became stronger and stronger. At a certain point, the German industrialists decided not to put up with it any longer because even by their own rules, the workers were gaining more and more political power, organizing in the communities and at the workplaces, etc.

So, they began breaking their own rules, but that's just a part of it. Another part of it is their desire. The economy was terrible in Germany. Their desire was to place the blame elsewhere,

always using scapegoats. That's a favorite tactic of the ruling class, pointing the finger at others. And in this case, they tried to direct the anger of the German people against Jewish people, and also against homosexuals. In general, people of color were considered the enemy.

I hope everyone understands the significance of the concentration camps, which were terrorism. It's going on right now, though; the same kind of genocidal terrorism is going on in Palestine, for example.

But getting back to fascism now, what we're facing right now, it parallels Germany in the sense that the ruling class is pointing the finger at trans people and at people of color as the source of the economic problems which are really based in the economic system itself, the system of private property and capitalist exploitation.

So, yes, we have to defend the trans community, we have to defend people of color. The U.S. contains oppressed nations that need liberation. They're finding groups in society that are already denigrated and targeting them. It looks like everything's on the chopping block in terms of illegality, the illegality of the current rulers of the United States.

It's important for people to understand what we mean when we say the ruling class. Of course, it's the billionaires. But they're just window dressing, in a way. The ruling class includes the military-industrial complex, the industries that make money off war. The ruling class includes big banks and big industries in general. Together, they constitute the sources of oppression of the rest of us. We need to identify them, and they need to be targeted.

We don't expect any sympathy from the ruling class. They have to be defeated and overthrown. They're destroying the world. And they know it because their system is in crisis, and that's why they're stooping to the worst terrorist tactics, using racism, homophobia, transphobia, and whatever they think they can use to turn the workers against each other. We, on the other hand, are fighting for unity in our class and consciousness of the task ahead of us, which is to overthrow the capitalist system.

GW: The situation can change radically when there's intense struggles, like in the 1960s. How did you find out about Stonewall in 1969, which was this earth-shaking moment?

BM: To understand the '60s, we have to look back at the '50s, which are really hard to reconstitute. They were so outrageously repressive. We're talking about the period of McCarthyism, and preceding that was the return of hundreds of thousands of GIs from World War II looking for jobs. Now we're talking about the mid-40s, and as a result of all of the class struggles that, to some extent, continued in the war, but definitely erupted very strongly after the war. And again, we have a ruling class confronted and organizing fascist tactics. I mean, McCarthyism was a form of fascism, with the ruling class fighting back against the rising workers' movement. And the repression was incredible.

There's an example, I think, that typifies the terror that gay people felt. I remember watching a television program. I think it was a Saturday afternoon, and we are talking about the early '60s. It was a student assembly at a high school somewhere in Florida, and the chief of police was speaking to an audience of about a thousand students. And I remember the words, not word by word exactly, but it was really terrifying. He looked out at the audience and said, "There are among you homosexuals, and they cannot be ..." — well, whatever horrible and negative things he had to say about it. But he concluded by saying, "The person next to you may be a homosexual. And always remember, if you are a homosexual, you need to go to a police station and identify yourself."

This was 1964 and gives you a flavor of what the '60s were about, because the '60s were a response to the terrible repression of the '50s. The youth just wouldn't have it. And that was the background to a countrywide and international youth rebellion. It was largely a cultural rebellion.

At the beginning of the '60s, very few people in the imperialist countries knew what or where Vietnam was. But the youth movement was beginning to develop a good political consciousness

united by struggle:

trans rights and building class solidarity

to the extent that, by the end of that decade, we were chanting, “Ho! Ho! Ho Chi Minh! The NLF is gonna win! Free Huey! Stop the attacks on the Black Panthers!” And all of that was happening in the youthful world, the world of the youth, the cultural background. And it was largely middle class, but some of the revolutionaries made a big mistake writing it off because it did not involve the working class per se. Although, of course, many of the youth were from working-class families.

But, in general, it was a task of educating the youth into revolutionary thought and class consciousness that was tremendously aided by the example of the Vietnamese and the example of the Panthers and the other Black revolutionary movements. A number of new Marxist-Leninist groups began organizing.

It was a fantastic time, and so when the young people at the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village, New York, when they were confronted with the police, it was just one confrontation too many. Instead of accepting the repression, they fought back. It was beautiful and went on for about four evenings.

The New York Times reported on it in a small back-page column, “Homosexuals Riot in Village.” And there I was in Buffalo, probably at our party office, which was also where I lived, opening up the New York Times, reading this and thinking to myself, “Okay, now you need to make a decision.” What am I talking about? The fact that I was gay, and like most of the gay youth, and let’s start saying LGBTQ+. There’s been a whole series of vocabularies that have been used. And anyway, there I was across the street in the New Chicago Lunch having breakfast, and there’s the statement in the New York Times. And there I am, a revolutionary, largely in the closet, and I had to decide what I was going to do.

I knew that I didn’t have the courage to face everyone. I mean, I’d grown up in Buffalo. I knew hundreds of people. I told the comrades I needed to leave Buffalo. I spent a year and a half in San Francisco, largely working with the San Francisco Gay Liberation Front, by the way. Now, let me stop here for a minute. So, we’re talking about the background

of Stonewall and how I became involved. I was able to do organizing work in San Francisco, including LGBTQ+ organizing. And was making some progress in terms of organizing it, but the comrades in New York kept calling me, “We need you here, we need you here.” So, at the end of a year and a half, I moved to New York City.

And then that was a whole new stage of my life because working with the party was tremendous – rewarding and tremendously educational. And Dorothy Ballan – I always thought of Sam Marcy, Vincent Copeland, and Dorothy Ballan as the triumvirate of the party, because they were the leaders. They were products of the ‘30s, ‘40s, and ‘50s, which meant that they had seen the power of the working class in the United States. They understood the potential for our class, as well as having experience in practical organizing. They were all organizers in the working class.

But unlike the other traditional socialist groups, they didn’t write off the youth movement as just a middle-class shindig or whatever it was. No, they understood there’s a revolution here. These youth are drawing their inspiration from the Vietnamese struggle, from the Black struggle. And I remember I was not present, but in the midst of this, right at the time of Stonewall, there was a conversation in the party headquarters, and one comrade was heard saying, about the Stonewall Rebellion, “A new front is opened in the struggle against U.S. imperialism.”

Well, maybe a little exaggerated, maybe a little too much, but the first organization was the Gay Liberation Front. Where did they pick that name

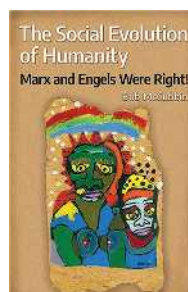
from? From the NLF, the National Liberation Front of Vietnam, which was leading the struggle in the south of that country. That tells you something about the consciousness of the youth. Maybe a little bit idealistic, maybe a little bit overblown in some instances.

But I remember a leader of the party saying, “We should much prefer the slightly ultra-left youth to the conservative youth.” And I mean, there was a confidence there that we could win them to the class struggle, that they were already angry, they already knew the contradictions and the outrageous values of the capitalist system, and were ready to hear about something else, something to replace it with.

GW: Just the fact that those youth decided to call their organization the Gay Liberation Front shows how developed their consciousness was already despite coming out of McCarthyism, the extreme anti-communism and extreme homophobia and transphobia – we didn’t necessarily have these words. But in that moment of rebellion, they were able to break through that conditioning, even if they didn’t understand all the ins and outs of Marxist theory and everything that was going on in Vietnam. It’s a learning process.

They were able to put two and two together and see the commonality of those struggles. Because on the surface of it, you might think, “Well, what does the Vietnamese struggle have to do with the gay and lesbian struggle?” But they saw that, yeah, it is related. It actually is related, and not only is it related, but we can learn from each other’s struggles.

To be continued.



Paperback or Kindle <https://tinyurl.com/vwarcv7>

The Social Evolution of Humanity

Marx and Engels were right! Bob McCubbin

This study of the evolution of humanity focuses on human social/sexual relations and, in particular, the changing social status of women. It offers a selection of scientific evidence that updates and augments the viewpoint expressed in Frederick Engels’ masterful work, *‘Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State.’*

McCubbin is the author of *‘Roots of Lesbian and Gay Oppression: A Marxist View.’* Published in 1976, during the first wave of the modern LGBTQ2S movement, McCubbin’s unparalleled achievement was to offer a historical analysis of how LGBTQ2S oppression developed.

Learn from Cuba! End the blockade!

On Sept. 25, 2022, socialist Cuba held a referendum to update the Families Code of the Cuban Constitution. Even Cuban citizens living abroad were allowed to vote at embassies. The referendum passed with 66.85% in favor. This new legal framework expands the rights of women, LGBTQ+ people, children, and others.

As U.S. transgender communist activist Melinda Butterfield said in a webinar on the Families Code:

“When it was reported – if it was reported at all in the capitalist media last year when it happened when the referendum was passed – it was just, ‘oh, Cuba has finally gotten around to adopting same sex marriage.’ But the Families Code is so much bigger than that, and so much more comprehensive, and not only for the queer community, but for all families and all kinds of communities in Cuba.”

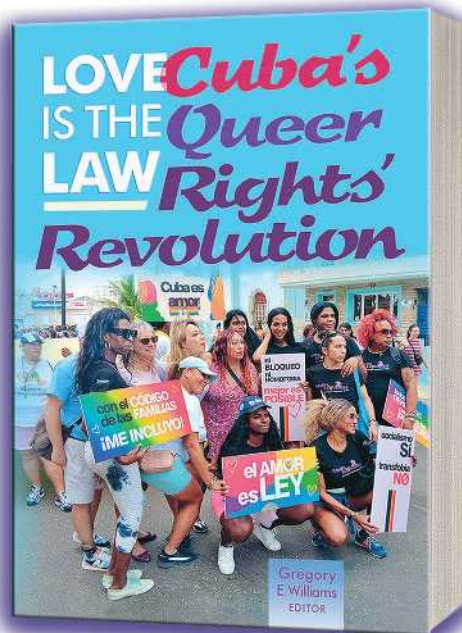
Indeed, Cuba carried out a revolutionary process. Not only because of what the new laws say but also because of the way the code was developed. There was a “consultative process” with the Cuban people, a mass-democratic process involving debates throughout the country in assemblies, labor unions, and more.

Cuba is undergoing radical social transformation made possible by all the institutions of people’s power laid down by the revolution going back to 1959.

Capitalism or socialism?

The contrast between Cuba and the United States could hardly be starker. While Cuba is making rapid progress regarding gender and sexuality, in the U.S. everything is being reversed. The attack on queer and trans people – especially on trans people – is front and center of the neofascist movement that has coalesced around Donald Trump. Trump and Elon Musk are trying to undo all the gains made by workers, Indigenous peoples, women, Black people, LGBTQ+ people. They’re trying to get rid of all civil rights that stand in the way of maximum profits for billionaires.

The difference is that Cuba is a socialist country (or a country engaged in the long work of socialist transition.) The U.S. is a capitalist country, center of the world imperialist system, the main fountainhead of reaction everywhere, including in its sponsorship of right-wing evangelical groups in Cuba that were the main organized force opposing the new Families Code.



Find ‘Love is the Law, Cuba’s Queer Rights Revolution’ online at tinyurl.com/Cuba-LoveisLaw



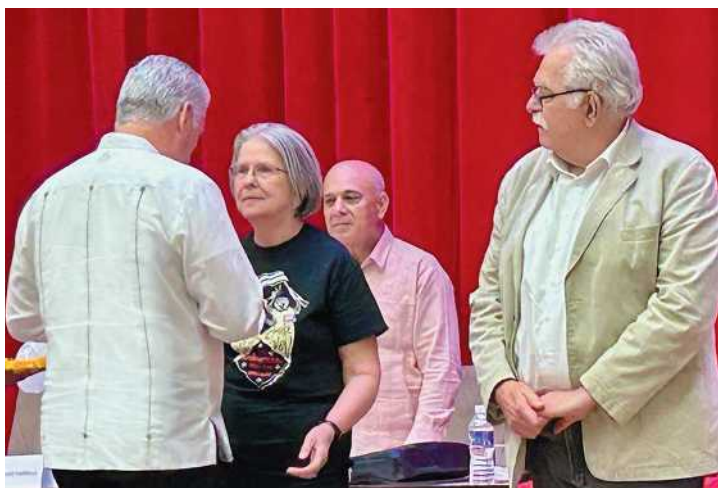
We have a real-life scenario to test which is better for LGBTQ+ and other oppressed people, capitalism or socialism. The authors of this book say “socialism!” without reservation.

What you’ll find in this book

A chronicle of Trump’s first month back in office, presenting the incredible danger of fascist rule. This is the government that cruelly keeps Cuba on the terrorist list and under economic blockade.

May Day in Cuba: Int’l solidarity conference

In a strong display of defiance and solidarity, over 5 million people marched in the cities of revolutionary Cuba this May 1. Through these impressive marches, the Cuban people combated against the designs of the U.S. to crush Cuba for its insistence that it will not succumb to imperialism or go back to the neocolonial status it had before 1959. Just when the tightening of the more than 60-year-old blockade of Cuba seems like it could not be any more draconian, something else is piled on, but now, more than ever, the U.S. finds itself isolated as the Cuban people stand strong, and solidarity with them grows.



Cuban President, Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez awarding Medals of Friendship to Cuba solidarity activists Cheryl LaBash and André Chassaigne.

Photo: Bill Hackwell

Medals of Friendship

During the Cuban May 2 international solidarity conference, Cuban President Miguel Díaz Canel awarded Medals of Friendship to two long time Cuba solidarity activists: Cheryl LaBash, co-chair

of the National Network on Cuba solidarity in the United States, and André Chassaigne, former deputy and president of the France-Cuba Friendship Group of the French National Assembly.

Source: *Resumen Latinoamericano*

Together with its Zionist appendage, it is committing genocide against the Palestinian people. Cuba doesn't bomb anybody. Cuba sends doctors.

The process of winning approval of the Families Code referendum. Cuban writers are included and a webinar discussion on: "What We Can Learn from Cuba's 'Code of Freedom' for Families;

- ▲ Reports from the U.S. Friends Against Homophobia and Transphobia delegation to Cuba;
- ▲ The participation by the Struggle for Socialism Party and the Peoples Power Assembly of Baltimore in the IFCO-Pastors for Peace Friendship-Caravan
- ▲ Text submitted by the Peoples Power Assembly to the United Nations Human Rights Office— a useful factsheet on Cuba;
- ▲ A peace seminar held in Guantánamo where delegates from 30 countries demanded a world free of U.S. imperialist intervention and military bases;
- ▲ Statement from the Women's International Federation calling for an end to the U.S. blockade against Cuba.
- ▲ Reports from Cenesex – the National Center for Sex Education / Centro Nacional de Educación Sexual. Cenesex has been at the center of gender and sexual liberation in the country, an international hub, facilitating exchanges between activists, academics, researchers and progressive religious groups.



Previously published

This book contains the full text of Leslie Feinberg's 2009 book, "Rainbow Solidarity in Defense of Cuba." During her life, Leslie Feinberg accomplished groundbreaking work, playing a key role in developing a revolutionary approach to the queer and trans struggles within the communist movement.

Her book documents revolutionary Cuba's inspiring trajectory of progress toward liberation of sexualities, genders, and sexes. This groundbreaking book revealed how the Cuban Revolution has grappled with the pre-revolutionary legacy of 450 years of persecution and exploitation of homosexuality.

"Rainbow Solidarity" answers the demonization of the 1959 Cuban Revolution by Washington and the CIA, Wall Street, and Hollywood. #

Mariela Castro en la Mesa Redonda: 'Los problemas del mundo son de todas las personas'

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solamente se orienta hacia mirar de manera egoísta o de búsqueda de reformas muy específicas para determinados grupos sociales, que es un poco lo que ha intentado el capitalismo: que cada cual luche por sus derechos específicos y no por los derechos generales.

"Los problemas del mundo son de todas las personas. Los problemas de la humanidad afectan a las personas LGBTIQ+ y los problemas de las personas LGBTIQ+ afectan a toda la humanidad. Por tanto, todas las transgresiones, las discriminaciones, las exclusiones sociales, las injusticias sociales deben verse de manera integrada.

"El capitalismo y especialmente el neoliberalismo insistió mucho en la segmentación social de los diferentes grupos de luchas populares. ¿Para qué? Para que no se unieran en comprender la necesidad del cambio de sistema, como hicieron las primeras activistas latinas que se destacaron en aquellas famosas protestas de Stonewall en Nueva York y que generaron después desarrollos de activismos y de acciones de lucha.

"En este sentido, aquellas compañeras luchaban contra el sistema capitalista, luchaban contra la opresión capitalista y han tratado de edulcorarlas y ponerlas muy superficiales para que las próximas que se identifican con estas luchas sean también muy superficiales. Y eso es lo que nosotros defendemos, la profundidad de las luchas populares, de las luchas por la justicia social. Y este año, por supuesto, se lo dedicamos.

"El año pasado, fue a Palestina, a la lucha del pueblo palestino y teníamos la convicción de que ya este año no tendríamos que hablar de la lucha del pueblo palestino porque ya se habría logrado la victoria y se habría logrado el respeto a la soberanía de este pueblo. Bueno, pues es todo lo contrario, es peor. Con una impunidad impresionante sigue el imperialismo utilizando al ente sionista enclavado en los mismos territorios ocupados en lo que ellos identif-

ican como Estado de Israel para lograr una limpieza étnica plena y total, e imponer un lugar de vacaciones en Gaza porque les gusta ese lugar maravilloso en el Mediterráneo".

Randy Alonso: Algo más o menos parecido a lo que el fascismo de Hitler quería hacer con el propio pueblo judío.

Mariela Castro: Exacto. Bueno, no hay un pueblo judío, hay una religión judía. Realmente eran muchas personas de religión judía europeas que ellos las utilizaron y victimizándolos de una manera exagerada y utilizando mitos bíblicos para llevarlos a ocupar territorios de Palestina.

"Por supuesto, en aquel momento un imperialismo liderado por el Reino Unido, después por Estados Unidos y para no perder el control geopolítico del estrecho de Bósforo y del Mar Rojo.

"O sea, no querían perder su poder colonial y establecieron un poder neocolonial muy brutal que con el tiempo fue poniéndose peor, utilizando personas que fueron inicialmente desde Europa.

"No son hebreos, son de religión judía, y muchos cristianos también, pero no son hebreos, ni son semitas, y sobre todo, lo que impusieron fue un poder sionista que se distancia de los valores de la religión judía, porque no es lo mismo.

"El sionismo es un movimiento supremacista político que nació un poco antes del nazismo y estuvieron muy estrechamente relacionados en la persecución de familias judías y están estrechamente relacionados con todo lo peor del nazismo, el fascismo que ahora resurge con gran fuerza.

"Por eso este año llamamos la atención no solamente hacia un lugar, Palestina, sino a toda la humanidad. Es decir, centrarnos en las históricas luchas antiimperialistas, antifascistas, anticoloniales, en la que también está la situación de Cuba, que sufre hace más de 60 años el bloqueo económico, financiero y comercial y muchas otras formas de agresión por parte del imperialismo". #

FIN DEL BLOQUEO ESTADOUNIDENSE A CUBA

Retirar a Cuba de la lista de Estado patrocinador del terrorismo (SSOT)» de Estados Unidos.

Mariela Castro en la Mesa Redonda:

‘Los problemas del mundo son de todas las personas’



Mariela Castro en el centro de la Bandera Palestina

A partir de la emisión de la Mesa Redonda del pasado viernes 9 de mayo, dedicada a las 18vas Jornadas contra la Homofobia y la Transfobia, medios de la prensa miamense tomaron fragmentos del programa e iniciaron una campaña de manipulación de su contenido.

Varios medios digitales financiados por el gobierno estadounidense se hicieron eco de la acción, y la replicaron. Estos son los mismos medios que nunca se han pronunciado contra el bloqueo ni han dicho una palabra contra el voto que cada año en la ONU emiten juntos Estados Unidos e Israel para mantenerlo, en menosprecio de la voluntad de casi todas las naciones.

Para mantener informados a nuestro pueblo y al activismo LGBTIQ+ cubano revolucionario, en respuesta a esta manipulación, publicamos a continuación las palabras in extenso de la Dra. Mariela Castro Espín, Directora del Centro Nacional de Educación Sexual (CENESEX) durante el intercambio de ideas en la Mesa Redonda.

Randy Alonso: Cada jornada que se ha desarrollado a lo largo de 18 ediciones contra la homofobia y la transfobia ha tenido, además de la defensa de esos derechos, la defensa de otros derechos, incluso más allá de nuestra frontera.

“Se ha defendido el derecho del pueblo palestino. Se ha defendido el derecho de los Cinco

Héroes cubanos a regresar a su país. Se ha defendido el derecho de Óscar López Rivera a regresar a su Puerto Rico de manera libre. Y por eso me gustaría, Mariela, abrir nuestra Mesa Redonda hablando sobre a qué se dedica esta 18.ª edición de las Jornadas contra la Homofobia y la Transfobia”.

Mariela Castro: Bueno, en primer lugar, seguimos con el lema El amor es ley. Estamos celebrando que para todas las familias el amor es ley y lo seguimos celebrando, educando, comunicando, contribuyendo a los procesos de transformación cultural de nuestro pueblo, evidenciados en la nueva Constitución de 2019 y el Código de las Familias, porque, si lo comparamos con la Constitución de 1976 y el Código de Familia de 1975, se puede apreciar muy claramente cómo el proceso revolucionario ha contribuido a ese enriquecimiento cultural de nuestro pueblo para avanzar en las brechas de equidad que van quedando, para avanzar en la atención a las necesidades de las personas, en la medida en que se van identificando mediante la construcción de consensos para determinar cambios importantes en las políticas y en nuestras leyes.

Esto es en lo primero que estamos trabajando. Es decir, continuar trabajando con nuestro pueblo en comprender, leer, interpretar en su justa medida el sentido de los textos normativos, empezando por la Constitución, porque a veces la interpretación lleva a que se vulneren los derechos.

“Entonces, esta es una manera de contribuir a ese proceso de garantía o ejercicio efectivo de los derechos de todas las personas con énfasis especial en las personas LGBTIQ+, máxime por las cuales, bueno, a las que se les dedican especialmente estas acciones, es decir, a que todas las familias comprendan sus responsabilidades según lo que está establecido, a todo lo que se está instituyendo como valores humanistas del proceso revolucionario.

“Antes decían: “Bueno, antes no lo hicieron”. No, antes estábamos aprendiendo, antes las sociedades todas estaban transformándose, estaban integrando nuevos elementos para los avances de la misma sociedad.

“Pero en la medida en que vamos comprendiendo, en que las instituciones científicas aportan elementos de análisis a la toma de decisiones políticas, bueno, pues se van introduciendo estos elementos que antes no se comprendían. Y así era a nivel global, no solo en Cuba.

“Ahora, como tú bien decías, nuestro trabajo de activismo no

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